

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Breakfast television may not be taking audiences by storm but it will have a profound effect on the coming election campaign. David Butler reports on the problems of politics round the clock.

Carin Stamp speculates on the outcome of a new competition that could decide the future of one of London's best known landmarks.

For three years the Forestry Commission has been counting Britain's trees with the help of a computer. Hugh Clayton takes a quizzical look at the figures.

Saturday tomorrow includes the weekend guide to the best events in leisure, the arts and entertainment.

Guard on £2m armed raid charge

A guard working for Security Express was charged yesterday with the attempted armed robbery of £2,241,965 from his employers at Christopher Street, Islington, North London, on March 9.

Alan David Roostan, aged 29, is also accused of the armed robbery of £135,000 from Security Express and McDonalds on November 26 last year, at McDonalds in High Road, Tottenham. He will appear at Old Street Magistrates Court today.

Solidarity calls May 1 protest

The underground Solidarity leaders called for mass May Day protest against Polish government policies. Mr Lech Walesa, whose wife was interrogated yesterday, said he did not signed the appeal but did not necessarily distance himself from it.

Adelman in

The US Senate confirmed the controversial appointment of Mr Kenneth Adelman as director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, setting aside doubts about his qualifications.

Judge dies

Judge Christmas Humphreys, Zen Buddhist, poet, herbalist and Shakespearean scholar, has died at his home in London. He was 82 and still the active leader of the Buddhist society he founded.

Ripper in court

Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, gave evidence in court against a fellow prisoner accused of slashing him in the face with a glass jar.

MPs' pay-offs

Most displaced or rejected MPs will be entitled to redundancy payments, normally restricted to those who unsuccessfully contest election, because boundary changes mean that more than half the constituencies will officially be in existence at the next general election.

Miners' claim

The National Union of Mineworkers is demanding a four-day week and retirement at 55 for its members, in return for following the introduction of new technology.

Hitchens dies

Gerry Hitchens, who played football for England, Aston Villa and Italian clubs, died playing for a local team at Hope, near Wrexham. He was 48.

Wales: A three-page Special Report on efforts to attract new industries and holiday visitors to the Principality. Pages 13, 15.

Leader page 11

Letters: On CABs, from Mr Peter Jay, and Mrs M P Kerry; Labour and pensioners, from Mr Brynmor John, MP, and Mr Peter Shore, MP; health resources, from Professor J A Davis and others.

Leading articles: Interest rates; Armed Forces youth scheme.

Features, pages 8, 10

The vet's dilemma: President Carter reassessed; Bernard Levin campaigns for the cockney sparrow; fighting off Cogan and Swid.

Friday page: The woman behind Ian Paisley; the dangers of sleeping pills.

Obituary, page 12

His Honour Christmas Humphreys, QC

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Whitelaw yields on police access to medical records

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government climbed down yesterday over its plans to allow police access to confidential medical and other personal records, after a determined campaign by doctors and churchmen.

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, told the Commons that he had taken seriously and sympathetically their anxieties about the provisions of Clause 10 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which would adversely affect their confidential relationships with those who sought their help.

He had decided to bring forward amendments so that confidential personal records relating to the work of the medical and other caring professions, including priests and social workers, should be exempt from the clause.

Mr Whitelaw also indicated that he would be responding to journalists that the Bill will force them to disclose sources of confidential information.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, will meet representatives of the profession, including the National Union of Journalists, the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, the Newspaper Society and the Press Council, on Monday to discuss changes.

Under the Bill as drafted, police investigating a "serious arrestable offence" could have sought an order from a circuit judge allowing them to search the premises of doctors, psychiatrists, social workers, priests, and others for evidence.

Mr Whitelaw, in a written reply to Sir Edward Gardner, chairman of the Conservative

welcomed the concession yesterday (Frances Gibb writes).

The British Medical Association said the controversial clause had "represented a most serious threat to the diagnosis and treatment of patients". It was "grateful to the Home Secretary for having recognized this danger by removing medical records from the Bill."

The association said it would still seek the extension of the Government's undertakings to cover tissues and tissue fluids obtained in the course of diagnosis and treatment of patients. Doctors would continue to cooperate with the police in the investigation of very grave crimes and it was significant, the association added, there were no cited examples of public security being endangered through doctors not cooperating in such cases.

The Rev James Thompson, Bishop of Stepney, who with the Bishop of Kensington led a protest by more than fifty Church of England bishops, also welcomed the change. "But it is important to remember we have been concerned about the Bill as a whole which we want to try to get right for the community. Just because this issue has been tackled, that is not the end of the story."

The Law Society, which already had exemption under the Bill for legal documents claiming "legal professional privilege" but not for other records held by solicitors in confidence, gave a cautious welcome.

Tory MPs pin hopes on June election

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The first parliamentary week since the Easter recess reached its climax yesterday with MPs of all parties preoccupied, above all else, with the question of when the Parliament will end.

Conservatives, who know no more than their political opponents what may be in the mind of the Prime Minister, hope that some clue may emerge from the private meeting today at which Mrs Margaret Thatcher will rally those Conservative candidates who are not yet MPs.

Among backbench Conservatives the ardour for a June election remains undimmed, since the latest dip in the opinion polls, with Gallup in yesterday's *Daily Telegraph* reporting a halving of the Government's lead over Labour in the course of a month, and the Alliance parties falling back into third place.

A clear majority of Conservative MPs appear convinced that



Mr Francis Pym: Advising caution

they would not necessarily win a June election, but that their party would have a distinctly better chance of success in June than later. Nonetheless the polls have also helped confirm the view of those ministers, including Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons.

responsibilities for apartheid matters, said: "A premiere limited to whites will be a platitude. It will be entirely against the spirit of Gandhi and the principles of the UN. The question is not merely that the director of the film will attend the premiere but whether the film, which was made in cooperation with India and deals with the life of Gandhi, shall be made available for a premiere showing to a racially segregated audience."

Sir Richard said: "Obviously I thought about it hard and long. The first thing I had asked was that the film be shown to mixed audiences. I was told there was no such thing in South Africa, and the only way the film could be shown was to segregated audiences."

He has discussed the matter with a number of people involved with the situation in South Africa, which was not an easy one.

Clutching his two Oscars, Sir Richard emphasized that he had been granted a permit to attend the black premiere in Soweto. "It is most certainly my intention to go."

Training in Forces offered to jobless

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Unemployed school-leavers were yesterday offered the chance of joining the Armed Forces for a year's engagement devoted to training and work experience for which they will receive a £25 weekly allowance under the Government's training scheme.

The Government is making 5,200 places available in the services for young volunteers. 3,700 in the Army, 1,000 in the RAF and 500 in the Royal Navy. The great majority will be for boys. The Army is unable to offer any places for girls, the Navy is offering up to 50 places for girls aged 17, and the RAF a small number.

Announcing details of the scheme in the Commons, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, defended it against fierce Labour criticism and denied that it was to be seen as the forerunner of an attempt to introduce conscription.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher had earlier predicted a great demand for the limited places available. Many young people would wish to play a part in defending their country, she said.

The volunteers, who will be able to apply by going to their local recruitment offices, will receive the same basic training as regular servicemen and women and some will go on to learn skills and trades. They will have to satisfy existing Armed Forces' entry standards and be able to leave at any time on 14 days' notice. Regulars normally serve at least a three year engagement.

Ten pounds a week will be deducted from their £25 allowance.

Continued on back page, col 3

Attenborough flies into storm of protest

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

Sir Richard Attenborough arrived back in London from his Oscar-winning triumph in Los Angeles at the centre of a storm over his decision to attend a whites-only premiere of his film *Gandhi* in South Africa.

He said he was determined to attend the premiere. In the Commons, Mrs Margaret Thatcher rejected a suggestion that she should ask Sir Richard not to go to South Africa. It was a matter for Sir Richard. "He must be free wholly to decide this on his own grounds."

The Anti-Apartheid Movement delivered a letter of protest signed by its chairman, Mr Robert Hughes MP, which Sir Richard read on his arrival home, and later the movement received a statement from the UN.

The message, signed by Mr E. S. Reddy, an assistant secretary general at the UN with special



Sir Richard with Oscars at Heathrow

South Africa and "arrived at my conclusion, which was not an easy one."

Continued on back page, col 1



Walking the course: Master Peter Phillips taking his father in hand after Captain Phillips had competed in the dressage at the Badminton Horse Trials yesterday.

Building societies welcome base rate cut to 10%

By Frances Williams and Baron Phillips

The big four clearing banks yesterday took the hint from the Bank of England and cut their base lending rates by half a percentage point to 10 per cent. But a further cut in rates now looks some way off.

The move, which brings base lending rates back to their level at the beginning of the year, has given a welcome reprieve to Britain's five million home owners threatened by higher mortgage interest rates.

National Westminster led the way after the Bank of England cut its key money market dealing rates for the second day running. This was an unmistakable signal that it was willing to see a drop in base rates after more than a week of resistance. The previous half point cut came on Budget day a month ago.

The authorities have been anxious to temper hopes of rapid cuts in interest rates, because they fear this could put sterling under pressure and make monetary control more difficult.

The money supply is now growing at the top of its target range and may overshoot this month because of the Govern-

ment's spending spree at the end of the financial year, revealed in official figures on Wednesday.

The authorities will want to see the money supply clearly under control or a significant strengthening of sterling, perhaps following a cut in American interest rates, before sanctioning a further reduction in lending costs. This is likely to be some weeks away.

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, welcomed yesterday's reduction which he said would benefit industry by £135m a year.

But real rates were still high. "We want further cuts to boost the recovery that is just beginning to happen," he said.

There was little reaction in the foreign exchange markets where the cut has been generally expected. The pound rose 0.4 cents to \$1.5045. Its trade-weighted index slipped 0.4 to 82.4, reflecting losses against European currencies which were more than made up in late trading.

Overdraft rates will fall by half a percentage point from today.

The building societies have been saying for some weeks that unless the banks lowered their interest rates, the cost of mortgages would have to rise.

The extent of the danger was known yesterday when the Building Societies Association said that net receipts in March were only £379m, well below the £700m which is necessary to maintain the lending level.

A total of £1,912m was lent to home-buyers during February and a further £1,905m was promised to mortgage applicants. At the end of last month the building society movement was committed to lend £4,203m.

Mr Richard Weir, the association's secretary general, said last night: "The reduction eases the upward pressure on building society interest rates but nevertheless base rates are still a full percentage point above the levels established when the mortgage rate was reduced to 10 per cent in November."

But he said that further reductions in base rates would be necessary for the movement to stay competitive for attracting investment.

Money growth, page 17

Maestro strikers vote to stay out

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

More than 5,000 workers at BL's Cowley plant in Oxfordshire voted overwhelmingly to stay out of strike yesterday amid warnings from management that prolonged action would jeopardize investment. Last night the action was made official.

The dispute so far has cost £60m, stopped production of the newly-launch Maestro car for a fortnight and has constituted the most serious industrial relations problem at the company for many years. Around 4,000 other BL men have been made idle.

The stoppage is ostensibly over BL's decision to withdraw "washing up time" during shifts, but the dispute is merely one symptom of breakdown in the relationship between the company and its Cowley employees and a sign of increasing militancy.

Workers at the plant angry at what they regard as the autocratic attitude adopted by a management attempting to raise productivity.

No further meetings are planned at the plant until next Friday, but there will now be closer involvement of national officers of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service is likely to intervene in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

Shop stewards at the works had recommended rejection of a revised peace formula from the company which would have phased out cleaning up time over a longer period.

Management also said that, with the cooperation of the workforce, it expected higher bonus earnings would be possible from May 16.

But the union says there can be no return to work until BL gives up its attempts to bring Cowley into line with other works and phase out cleaning up time.

Mr David Buckle, Oxford district secretary of the TGWU, told the strikers yesterday: "Some people believe this is an olive branch from the company. It is a stinging nettle and if you grasp it you will be stung."

Mr Harold Musgrove, Austin Rover chairman, has warned that a project to build a new executive car, codenamed XX, scheduled to be built by BL and Honda, was under threat because of the stoppage.

The Ford Motor Company yesterday announced a fresh attempt to persuade workers at its Halewood plant in Merseyside to accept radical changes in working practices. Unions have threatened to strike over the attempt to introduce what they call "Japanese-style" patterns of work (The Press Association reports).

Ford hopes to show all 9,700 employees a video film intended to allay their fears.

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Yorkshire Ripper says fellow-prisoner attacked him with glass

Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, told a court yesterday that another prisoner at Parkhurst Prison hit him in the face with a glass jar.

Sutcliffe was giving evidence at the hearing of a charge against James Costello, aged 35, who is alleged to have attacked him. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

Sutcliffe, aged 37, who gave evidence handcuffed to a prison officer in the witness box at Newport Magistrates Court on the Isle of Wight, said: "Suddenly I was subject to a particularly nasty, totally unexpected and unprovoked attack."

Smartly dressed in a grey suit and open-necked blue shirt, Sutcliffe, who was bearded, wore a gold cross on a chain around his neck.

Costello sat in the dock flanked by two prison officers. He is accused of wounding Sutcliffe in Parkhurst on January 10 with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

Mr Graham Grant-Whyte, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the court Sutcliffe suffered a severe injury in the attack, and needed surgery.

He had a deep laceration five inches long across his face, a two and a half inch deep laceration at the outer upper part of his left eye and a laceration to his upper left eyelid. He lost some blood and was in a state of mild shock. He underwent an operation to repair superficial muscle damage.

Sutcliffe told the magistrates he was a prisoner in the hospital wing at Parkhurst, where he went in January this year. Shortly before 6 pm on January 10, staff unlocked his cell so he could get some water.

He filled a bowl and, as he turned the tap off, was aware of the presence of another person.

"I did not pay particular attention to who it was. I took about two strides and suddenly I was subject to a particularly nasty, totally unexpected and unprovoked attack. The first thing I was aware of was a glinting glass container just before it smashed into my face."

Pointing to the left side of his face, Sutcliffe added: "It hit me there."

He identified Costello, sitting in the dock, as the person who attacked him. He said he did not know Costello.



Sutcliffe arriving at court yesterday.

Sutcliffe, who arrived amid tight security two and a half hours before the hearing was due to start, was driven away in a prison van almost immediately after giving evidence. A crowd of about a hundred waited outside the court and there was some booing.

Costello, whose address was given on the court records as c/o Broadmoor Hospital, was committed for trial at Newport Crown Court. The magistrates overruled a defence submission that the prosecution case was not sufficient to require the case to go for trial.

Cross-examined by Mr Peter Ader, for the defence, Sutcliffe said he had been hearing voices, giving him advice when he was depressed.

He denied having difficulties in his relationships with other prisoners. "Aren't you a rather unpopular person?" Mr Ader asked. "Yes, but it does not affect me because it is an ignorant opinion they hold. Anyway, they just do not understand," Sutcliffe said. Asked if he was aware that his story would be worth money if he told it to the press, Sutcliffe replied: "That is the trouble with society today. People are motivated by greed and there are no moral values at all."

Earlier Mr Grant-Whyte, describing the alleged attack, said two blows had been struck and hospital officers had witnessed part of the incident. Asked what had happened, Mr Costello said Sutcliffe had attacked him.

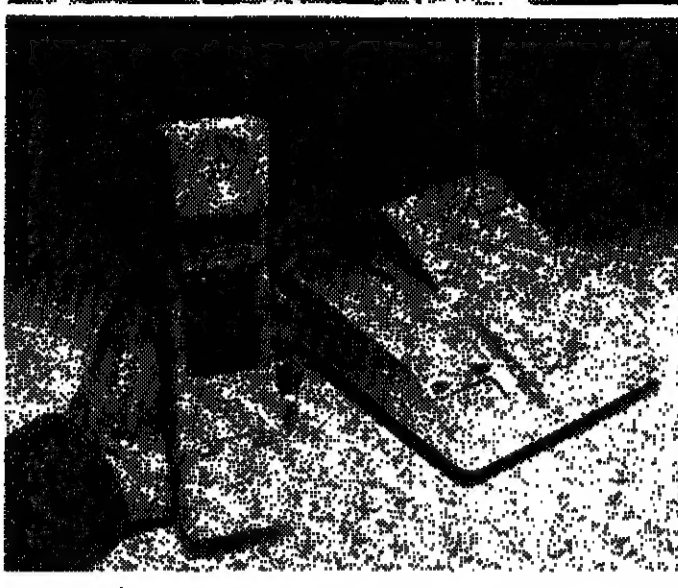


The go-anywhere phone

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

Gone are the days of having to be in carport of the telephone when waiting for a call or being frustrated by hearing it ring just before stepping into the bath. Britain now has its first officially approved cordless phone, allowing the user to make and receive calls 600ft from the telephone's base.

The unit has a base (shown left), which is connected to the normal telephone socket and mains electricity, and a cordless handset powered by a small battery, linked with the base by radio frequency. When replaced on the base the handset battery is recharged automatically from the mains supply.



Drugs on trial

Driver 'woke' after car crash

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A company sales executive who went to bed after taking sleeping tablets and pain killers, woke up in a police station and heard how he had driven through red traffic lights and then crashed his car, West London magistrates at Acton were told yesterday.

Raymond Johnston, aged 39, of Haywards Mews, Wimbledon, had no recollection of the crash after he had taken two Halcion sleeping tablets. He had also taken two dihydrocodeine tablets (DF-118), a strong pain killer which, coupled with a similar dose a few hours earlier, could have been responsible for his robot-like behaviour, the court was told.

Mr Johnston was cleared of driving while unfit due to either drink or drugs after a 28-hour hearing in which the expert witness for the defence was Dr Cornelius van der Kroef, a Dutch psychiatrist.

Dr van der Kroef, whose campaign against Halcion led to its ban in Holland, said Mr Johnston's "automaton" resembled that which he had seen in many of the 1,000 cases he had analysed. He thought it "highly probable" that the behaviour had been caused by Halcion.

But Professor Malcolm Lader, Professor at London University's Institute of Psychiatry, said that Halcion in the recommended dose in Britain, which is lower than it was in Holland, "has not been associated with a higher incidence of adverse reaction than any other member of its class".

He said the levels of the pain killer DF-118 in Mr Johnston's blood were "extremely high" and that there had been deaths reported at that level. The "automaton" behaviour could have been caused by that drug alone.

GPs paid up to £250,000 in error

Sheffield City Council's health department has been asked for advice on how to recover the overpayment of National Health Service funds, due to an administrative error, to family doctors in the city. The overpayments, which may total about £250,000, have been made over a number of years by the Sheffield Family Practitioner Committee.

Some doctors have been paid twice for contraceptive services supplied to NHS patients in the city. Some practices are said to have been overpaid by up to £3,000 and there is a strong likelihood they will have to repay the money.

Mr Philip Nuttall, the committee's administrator, said that the amount to be recovered from doctors in the city would "depend on the departmental view on how we handle it".

General practitioners supply contraceptive services on an item-for-service basis. After making out a prescription, they send a claim form to the family practitioner committee detailing the type of service supplied and the committee reimburses the money. A Sheffield doctor claimed yesterday that it was possible that busy doctors in large practices could overlook the extra payments.

Hammer used to wreck home

Rodney Towler, aged 49, was committed to prison for a month at Southend County Court yesterday for making his estranged wife homeless, which Judge Gordon Rice ruled was in breach of an earlier order not to molest her.

The judge had also previously ordered Towler, an unemployed heating engineer with three children, to leave the matrimonial home in Hadleigh Park Avenue, Thundersley, Essex, by April 2.

In an affidavit Mrs Margaret Towler said she returned home to find the roof partly ripped off, windows smashed and a water cylinder punctured, causing flooding. Ceilings were bulging or collapsed, there were holes in the walls and the lavatory and bathroom basin were smashed. The repairs totalled £4,500. The husband admitted causing the damage with a hammer.

Doctor for trial on drug charges

Pierre Joneanu, aged 82, a Romanian-born retired Harley Street doctor facing 20 charges of forging prescriptions for heroin substitute drugs, was remanded on bail by Marlborough Street magistrates yesterday for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Since he first appeared in court on November 17 Dr Joneanu of Hallam Street, Marylebone, county London, has been remanded in custody in his absence each week while being treated for chronic bronchitis.

Council buys ponies at risk

Somerset County Council has paid £1,300 from the rates to help to save the world's oldest breed of horse from extinction. Three mares, a filly and a colt have been bought to protect the Exmoor breed, which has only 150 mares surviving in their natural environment and has been declared an endangered species. The council bought six mares and a stallion two years ago, and five mares are now in foal.

Manx death penalty vote

A report recommending the retention of the death penalty for murder in the Isle of Man will go before Manx MPs in Tynwald on Tuesday and is almost certain to be accepted. But death sentences passed by Manx courts will continue to be commuted to life imprisonment by the Home Secretary "for the foreseeable future".

U-boat visit

Two West German submarines and their mother ship arrive on a three-day visit to Orkney today. They form part of the Third Federal German Submarine Squadron and will have a total complement of 126.

Footballer dies

Gerald Hitchins, aged 48, a former England international and Aston Villa player, collapsed and died during a village football match in Hope, North Wales, on Wednesday evening. He lived in Holywell, Cwtyd.

£500m dock leisure centre plan

By Baron Phillips Property Correspondent

A multi-million pound leisure and convention centre is being planned for a 1,200-acre docks site in Bristol which if allowed, will be the largest development of its kind in Britain.

Planning permission for the development, which is expected to cost at least £500m, is being sought by the international Heron Corporation headed by Mr Gerald Ronson. It is expected that an outline of the scheme will be considered by Woodspring District Council early next week.

The site is about three miles outside Bristol city, cleft between the Royal Portbury Dock and the Portlesea Dock. The vacant land is owned by Bristol City Corporation and the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The scheme would provide thousands of jobs in the area. At the heart of the development is a large convention centre similar to ones in the United States where convention business is thought to be the eleventh largest industry in the country. Apart from the conference and convention facilities, there will be extensive hotel accommodation, a leisure park, ancillary offices and shops, housing and some light industrial development.

A Heron spokesman said last night that the location was right for such a scheme. The company was confident of being granted outline planning consent and it would then spend several million pounds on a research and feasibility study.

In the 1960s Heron developed a large housing and shopping centre at Yate, a Bristol suburb, but since then it has grown into one of the largest private multinational companies in Britain. Its interests cover property development and investment, petrol stations, car sales, house building, electronics and insurance, and are spread throughout Europe and North America.

It is thought the scheme would provide the largest and most extensive convention and leisure facilities in Europe. Part of Canaby Street, once the heart of "swinging" London in the 1960s, has been sold for £10.5m to a property company.

The sale was of about 180,000 sq ft of shops and offices on the west side of the street. Peachey Properties, the new owners, now control about three quarters of the street.

Property column Page 24

New moves to curb animal experiments

By John Young

Proposals for legislation to control experiments on animals were published yesterday by a joint working party of the British Veterinary Association, the Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation and the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments.

Their report suggests that experiments should be confined to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases in humans, animals or plants, including the safety testing of medicines, and the quality control of foods; the detection of physiological conditions, including pregnancy diagnosis; prolongation of life; protection of the natural environment; animal breeding; the advancement of biological knowledge; and certain limited educational and training purposes.

The premises where experiments are carried out and those conducting them should be licensed by the Home Office, it says. Applications for licences should be counter-signed by two sponsors holding similar appointments in biological sciences.

With the exception of farm animals, those used in experiments should be bred for the purpose, the report suggests. The use of cats or dogs taken from the streets should not be permitted.

Mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs, cats and hamsters should be acquired only from registered establishments. Other animals, particularly primates, should be added to that list as soon as there is a reasonable prospect of a sufficient supply.

"In reaching a decision to use wild animals for experimental purposes, the welfare of the animals, the survival of the species and the quality of the experimental material should be taken into account," it says. "Financial grounds alone should not be a sufficient reason for an exception to be made."

The report notes that the difficulty of defining pain, suffering or distress has not been resolved satisfactorily. But it is possible to recognize various states of suffering, both in intensity and duration.

For example, a brief painful stimulus, such as the insertion of a needle through the skin, is probably inconsequential. On the other hand, the stress imposed in the restraint and immobilization of the animal may be severe.

Mr Neil King, president of the British Veterinary Association, said yesterday that the report represented an important meeting of minds between responsible welfare organizations and was a significant advance in establishing a cornerstone for legislation.

Dr Tom Gibson, the association's vice-president, said it was not at this stage possible to exclude cosmetics from being tested on animals.

Vets' dilemma, page 10

Wife 'used as kennel maid' gains divorce

A wife whose husband was said to have used her as a "kennel maid" for their dogs and apart from that ignored her was granted a divorce yesterday.

The behaviour of Mr William Ivens, aged 47, was more than his wife, Joy, aged 53, could be expected to tolerate any longer. Judge Patricia Coles ruled in the London Divorce Court.

The judge said that after 21 years of marriage the "only common denominator" left between Mr and Mrs Ivens was their interest in their eight Saluki dogs.

Mr Ivens, of Woodlands Lane, Windlesham, Surrey, a principal with a London firm of estate agents, had not communicated with his wife for years, had not had sexual relations with her for seven years and embarrassed her by ignoring her at social occasions, the judge said. He did not even tell her when he bought a racehorse.

"It is obvious Mr Ivens is running his own life completely and is simply using Mrs Ivens as a kennel maid for the dogs."

Assault risk in wards 'greater than on beat'

Mr James Sharp, a former policeman who works as a nurse, said yesterday that hospitals were such violent places he felt at greater risk of being assaulted there than when he was on the beat.

Mr Sharp, a night nursing officer at Whittington Hospital, Highgate, north London, said staff faced a growing number of attacks from patients, visitors and intruders.

He said staff were often afraid to leave the safety of wards at night. He called for more security staff to make hospitals safer. "The sad truth today is that a nurse's uniform is no longer protection against attack. It may well make her a target," he added.

Mr Sharp told reporters attending the Royal College of Nursing annual meeting in Bournemouth that violence was widespread.

A study at one hospital in London showed that assaults and violent threats against staff had increased to 47 in a five-month period last year compared with only 21 during the same period in 1981.

London cable TV 'may be uneconomic'

By Our Electronics Correspondent

Glasgow could prove to be an economically attractive location for cable television operators in spite of its concentration of lower income groups while London, once thought to be the most potentially lucrative area for cable, may prove uneconomic.

The findings are contained in *Cable Britain: Be Profitable*, a report published yesterday and prepared by National Economic Research Associates International, a firm of consulting economists. The results are based on a study of four sample cable franchise areas: London, Glasgow, Leicester and Nottingham. The London franchise consisted of Hammersmith, Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and the franchise period in all the samples was assumed to be 12 years.

The report concludes: "Households with children are much more likely to subscribe to cable; in this respect London looks less attractive for cabling than the other franchise areas."

Mr Trevor Clay the college's general secretary, said the issue of violence would be discussed by the ruling council next week.

Police support for more aid to crime victims

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Strong police backing for a big expansion of aid to victims of crime is pledged by Sir Kenneth Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, as part of his new social contracts between police and public.

The aid will be given by volunteers, with police and Government support, as part of the fast-growing National Association of Victims Support Schemes. The volunteers will enlist help for victims who need it.

Sir Kenneth announces his plan in the annual report of the association, which tells how three volunteers spent four days cleaning and repairing an Asian grocer's shop after a petrol

bomb attack. In Islington, volunteers provided urgently needed aid for a blind man who was assaulted and robbed in the street. Manufacturers of his stolen pocket tape-recorder, used for notes and reminders, gave him another free when volunteers told them.

The volunteers also alerted the Metropolitan Society for the Blind to give him an immediate grant during his recovery from injury and help him claim £565 from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

When youths set fire to the front door of the home of a Bromley woman aged 88, severely shocking her, volun-

teers arranged accommodation elsewhere until she recovered. Then, to keep her spirits up, arrangements were made for her to attend a day centre. The local beat policeman also kept special watch on her flat.

"There must be a movement away from the concept of victim support being a welfare service for a minority of victims," Sir Kenneth writes.

Sir Kenneth's plan is part of a big growth nationally in aid to victims. Miss Helen Reeves, the association's national officer, notes in the report a 50 per cent increase in people offered help in 1982, to a new total of 41,375. By the end of the year, 2,912 people were working

voluntarily in local schemes. Between September 1979 and September 1982, the number of schemes increased from 34 to 129.

Six more schemes are planned in London, where 16 are already in action. Sir Kenneth's backing means other schemes are now likely.

He says: "It is vitally important to harness the community in responding to the needs of victims, as well as attempting to reduce the number of victims through crime prevention."

The association claims in its report to have a more extensive voluntary service for victims of crime than any other country in the world.

The Royal Charter for the University of Buckingham is now officially sealed.

The University of Buckingham, formerly The University College at Buckingham, has now achieved full university status. It is Britain's only independent university and provides unique features in university education while retaining the traditional British emphasis on small-group teaching.

- * Two-year degree course (BA, BSc, BSc(Econ), LLB)
- * Four ten-week terms per calendar year
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Applications may be made immediately for the two-year Law degree beginning this July, or at any time for degrees beginning in January in the following subject areas:

ACCOUNTING, BUSINESS, and ECONOMICS, HISTORY, POLITICS, and ENGLISH, EUROPEAN STUDIES (3 years), LIFE SCIENCES, LAW (also a July entry), POLITICS, ECONOMICS, and LAW.

Postgraduate courses are also offered and there is an expanding programme of research.

Applications are made direct to the Admissions Officer, not through UCCA. Opened as The University College at Buckingham by the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher in 1976, Buckingham had as its first Principal Professor Max Beloff, (now Lord Beloff), who was succeeded in 1980 by Professor Alan Peacock, now Vice-Chancellor. The Chancellor of the University is Lord Hailsham.

For further information please write to: The Admissions Officer, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG, or telephone Buckingham (0280) 814080

The University of Buckingham

PARLIAMENT April 14 1983

Yards unwilling to take risk over Cunard refit

SHIP REPAIRING

British ship repair yards must be prepared to fulfil orders on time, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in reply to Labour criticism at a session in the Commons of the decision to send the Cunard Countess to Malta for a £2m refit.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, said that the Government should have threatened to withhold the 40 per cent of the cost which was coming from the taxpayer, unless the work was given to a British yard.

Mrs Thatcher said that it was disappointing that a British yard could not be found to do the work in time for the ship to be back in the Caribbean on July 9. Mr Foot said he really would add to the sense of outrage in the country about the matter.

The matter was originally raised by Mr Robert Mitchell (Southampton, Techen, SDP) who asked the Prime Minister to call in the chairmen of Cunard and of British Shipbuilders and explain that 40 per cent of the cost of the refit of Cunard Countess is coming from the taxpayer, that thousands of shipyard workers are on the dole, and will she do everything possible to make sure they come to an agreement that the refit should take place in a British yard?

Prior sees snags in Irish forum

ULSTER

Any forum, such as that suggested by Dr Garret FitzGerald in Dublin, or any other initiative which in any way put at risk the view of the majority of people in Northern Ireland, who wished to remain part of the United Kingdom, was bound to start at a disadvantage, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

Any constructive course would be welcomed, he added, as would a decision by the SDLP to attend the Assembly in Northern Ireland.

Asked if he would be open to propose new initiatives for cross border cooperation to meet the needs of the Republic of Ireland, Mr Prior explained that there was a high degree of cooperation with the Irish Republic on practical matters of mutual concern, and officials in Northern Ireland and in the Republic were in regular contact on a range of such matters as a normal aspect of their functions.

I have not met any ministers from the Republic since my discussion with the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs in London on February 1 (he said) and I have at present no plans to meet the Minister for Foreign Affairs or the Taoiseach of the Republic.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire, Lab) would be urged the so-called unionists in the House support Dr FitzGerald's initiative for an all-Ireland forum to discuss possible constitutional changes leading to the peaceful unification of Ireland, a unity to which every true unionist should aspire?

Mr Prior: That is a matter for the Unionist Party.

Mr Martin Fennelly (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) would he not consider that this forum, initiated today in the Republic, is a step forward and that we should give some help to it?

Mr Prior: We should all talk to one another about this. I believe that any forum or initiative of this nature which in any way puts at risk the view of the majority of people in Northern Ireland who wish to remain part of the United Kingdom, is bound in itself to start with a major disadvantage.

Any constructive course will be welcomed, just as would also be welcomed the SDLP playing a part in the Assembly of Northern Ireland.

Mr David Wainwright (Walsall North, Lab) would he not agree that the issue of the unity of people, including the Assembly, there is no way at all in which we can see any

Mrs Thatcher: Efforts were made to find a British yard to carry out the work in time for the ship to return to her commitments on July 9.

It was not possible to find a British yard which could do the work in time. It is very disappointing that such a yard could not be found.

It was vital that the ship should be back on duty by July 9. It is disappointing that yards which did so well during the Falklands war were not able, in peacetime, to match that.

Mr Foot: Her answer will only add to the sense of outrage throughout the country.

Does she really mean that the Government will stand back and let that work go ahead in Maltese yards? If she is so unwilling or unable to do anything about it, will she at least cease the hypocrisy of exhorting other people to buy British?

Mrs Thatcher: The weakness of Mr Foot's case is that British yards have been asked to undertake to carry out the repairs in time and were unwilling to take the risk that if they were not successful in carrying it out in time, they would have incurred a penalty.

A penalty would be incurred if she did not get back to undertake her normal duties in time.

Mr Foot: Has she inquired into the conditions applied and still penalise clause imposed? Does she think it

end to the bloodshed which has engulfed the Province for the last ten years?

Would it not be a welcome step forward that the forum starting in Dublin and the British Government found ways and means of agreement whereby there is far less hard-line sectarian attitude amongst Unionists in Northern Ireland and in the Republic by constitutional amendment which would make this more attractive to the people in Northern Ireland?

Mr Prior: There is a great deal that could be done to remove the suspicions which have been in the past, but if he and the House believe that there is any simple solution to the age old problem, it simply is not there.

The Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, DUP): Is it aware that Mr Trevor Elliott who was murdered brutally was an officer in my party? This and many other killings in the south and north are a disgrace to the Republic and mean that the Government should press for proper cross-border

cooperation in bringing those guilty of these atrocities to trial by extradition into Northern Ireland?

Mr Prior: I should like to express my sympathy and that of the House with the relatives of Mr Elliott, who will be suffering as a result of this tragedy.

I believe that the greatest degree of cross-border cooperation on security matters is essential and I welcome the recent steps which might make more possible for extradition to take place as I believe that would do a lot to remove some of the suspicions which exist in Northern Ireland today.

Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, Ch, Con) asked the Prime Minister to call in the chairmen of Cunard and of British Shipbuilders and explain that 40 per cent of the cost of the refit of Cunard Countess is coming from the taxpayer, that thousands of shipyard workers are on the dole, and will she do everything possible to make sure they come to an agreement that the refit should take place in a British yard?

Mr Prior: I agree that discussions between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Republic are a much needed and welcome progress.

Mr Gerard Fitz (Belfast, West, Soc): A Catholic forum in Dublin and a Protestant Assembly in Stormont is a recipe for further alienation and



Mitchell: Thousands on the dole

right it should be imposed? Does that have Government support?

Since so much taxpayers' money was involved, if the Government had said the money would have been withheld if the work was not done in British yards, the work could have been done here.

Mrs Thatcher: The ship has to be back to the Caribbean on July 9. It is not the cruises can not continue and enormous penalties would be incurred.

It does not seem to me unreasonable to say that we must have the ship back in the condition in which she was chartered, by a certain date.

The work was first offered to British yards, but no British yard could meet that date.

I saw on television last night that the chairman of British Shipbuilders said it would not risk the penalty, but other yards were apparently able to meet the deadline.

I understand why it is disappointing that no British yards could do so, but the attitude we must take is that we must be prepared to do that work on time.

polarization between the communities.

Would he use his endeavours to get elected representatives of whatever persuasion in Northern Ireland to attend its forum. The SDLP would attend the place to which they were elected. That is one way of getting people to talk to each other.

Mr Prior: Yes, if both would agree to attend the other there would be no need for the forum in the first place.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be the Monday Debate on the Brandt report *The Common Crisis*.

Tuesday: Debates on Opposition motions on East Anglia and on shipbuilding and shiprepair industries.

Wednesday: Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill, remaining stages.

Thursday: Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages.

Friday: Private members' Bill: Diseases of Fish Bill, report. Young Persons' Rights Bill, second reading.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Telecommunications Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Energy Bill, committee.

Water Bill, report. Debate on reform of the building society.

Wednesday: Debate on energy conservation.

Thursday: Water Bill and British Shipbuilders Bill third readings.

Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on UK dependencies.

Shipbuilding move fails

HOUSE OF LORDS

What has happened so far in a number of instances of the sale of public sector assets has been a public scandal. Lord Bruce of Donnington, speaking for the Opposition, said on the report stage of the British Shipbuilders Bill which paves the way for the "privatization" of British shipbuilding.

He went on to give the warning: When the next Labour Government gets into office we shall examine some of these transactions that have taken place. What happens now and what has happened in the past may well form a useful guide as to what may happen on reversion.

Lord Bruce moved an amendment which, he said, would enable a reasonably accurate value to be obtained when the Secretary of State for Industry, using his powers under the Bill, directed British Shipbuilders to dispose of any assets.

He proposed that the Secretary of State should be required to obtain the approval of the House of Commons before disposing of any assets.

The amendment was rejected by 108 votes to 63 - Government majority, 45.

Thatcher declines to end election speculation

PM'S QUESTIONS

The only clue that Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, would give in the Commons about the date of the next general election was that it would be some time in the next 15 months.

But when the election comes (she declared) we shall fight it on the Tory record and on Tory policies and I think we shall win.

She was replying to Mr Robert Parry (Liverpool, Scotland Exchange, Lab) who called on the Prime Minister to end speculation by announcing that she would seek a fresh mandate from the electorate this summer.

When she fights the election (he went on), will she fight it not on a platform of electioneering but on the Tory Government's mass level of unemployment?

Mr Parry also asked her to condemn the silly attempt to recruit unemployed youth into the armed forces. The Minister and the Government (he went on) have been wallowing in the blood of the people killed or wounded in the Falklands and it should be stopped as it is obscene. (Conservative protest)

Mrs Thatcher: With regard to some young people under training going into the armed forces, I believe there will be a great demand for that service in places that are available.

It will, of course, be totally voluntary and many young people will wish to take advantage of the opportunity to play a part in defending their country.

Mr Michael Nesbitt (Havering, Romford, Ch) When the Labour Party was in power, tax thresholds fell by 5 per cent for a married man and 20 per cent for a single person, whereas under this Government tax thresholds have risen by more than prices.

On the anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the Opposition would do better to remember Lincoln's maxim: do not make the rich poorer, make the poor richer.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree with the quotation from Abraham Lincoln. I also agree that under the last Labour Government, tax thresholds fell, but the Government has not done so since. Tax thresholds have increased by 5 per cent more than inflation, so there has been a real improvement.

In addition, in our first four years of Government, net take-home pay has gone up by 8 per cent, whereas in the first four years of Labour it went down by 4 per cent.

Mr Harry Greenwood (Ealing, North, Ch): Has she heard the varied estimates of the cost of implementation of the Labour Party proposals recently published by the Conservative Party? The proposals are £15,000m and £40,000m, 12p on the basic rate of income tax and five million unemployed? (Labour laughter)

The Opposition might well get excited, they have got something to answer for. What does she think the cost of these ridiculous and stupid proposals might be?

Mrs Thatcher: We have done such calculations as we can and we understand the one-off cost of these proposals would be between £200m and £300m and the annual cost would be between £30,000m and £40,000m. The whole thing will be totally disastrous, but they will never get the chance to implement it.

Correction

Remarks about *The Londoner* and other newspapers made by Lady Trumpington (C) during the reconstruction of the Water Bill were wrongly attributed in the parliamentary report yesterday to Lord Ardwick (Lab).

Forces to train young volunteers

UNEMPLOYMENT

The armed forces are to offer voluntary training places for the young unemployed, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, announced in a statement in the Commons. He denied in reply to Labour questions that the scheme would be the forerunner of compulsory conscription.

Mr Heseltine said: I have been considering the role of the armed forces in the Government's programme to provide training and work experience for unemployed school leavers. The high quality of the training provided by our Armed Forces has convinced me that they should play a part.

I therefore propose to make available some 3,200 places for the young unemployed volunteering for such opportunities which will be on the same basis as the young training scheme. The precise number of places available in the first year will depend on the number of applications and the capacity of the Service training establishments.

The young people will volunteer to join one of the Services on a 12-month engagement, part of which will be spent in formal training and the remainder in work experience. All volunteers will receive the same basic training as regular Servicemen and women, and some will go on to learn skills and trades.

All applicants for the scheme will be volunteers, will have to satisfy existing entry standards and will be able to leave at any time on 14 days' notice.

They will be Servicemen and Servicewomen and in all but a few respects will qualify for the same benefits as single regulars and under the same discipline. They will receive, as will youngsters joining civilian employers in the scheme, an allowance of £25 per week. I have decided that a deduction from this will be made for food and accommodation of £10 per week.

The Ministry of Defence will receive the same subvention as civil employers. As the YTS volunteers will pay less than the normal Service food and accommodation charge, my department will contribute about 10p to subsidize this lower deduction.

I hope that the scheme may be in operation before September this year.

I am sure the House will applaud the willingness of the armed services to devote some of their training skills for the benefit of young people.

Mr Dennis Davies, an Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament (Llanelli, Lab): This statement represents an abysmal and depressing epitaph to four years of Tory government. Having put thousands of young people into the dole queues and onto the street corners, all the Government can now think of is to put military uniforms on some of them for 12 months.

The scheme offers no hope of real

training and it does not provide young people either with the dignity of the professional soldier or the dignity of a civilian job.

After 12 months under the economic policies of this Government they will again be put in the dole queues.

Has the Manpower Services Commission been consulted on this, and if so what was their reaction? Is it not the case that two years ago they turned down a not dissimilar scheme?

Where will the money come from for this scheme, from the existing budget of the MSC or will it be given extra resources to do it?

This scheme is an insult both to the professional armed forces and to the young people themselves.

What the youth of Britain need is not despairing schemes of this kind but a change of government that would provide for real training and a genuine hope for the future.

Mr Heseltine: The scheme is as close as it is possible to devise to the Youth Training Scheme but it is administered through the Ministry of Defence.

I cannot accept the general attitude of the Opposition. My own sincerely held view is that the Labour Party is obsessed with running down our armed services. They cannot understand the respect and admiration in which they are held which means that a large number of people will volunteer.

Mr Mark Carlisle (Runcorn, Ch): Rather than the carping criticism from the Opposition, this statement will be widely welcomed both as a means of widening the training opportunities available to young people leaving school this year and as a constructive step to deal with the problem of the shortage of job opportunities for young people.

Mr Heseltine: I am sure this will be seen as a further manifestation of the Government's determination to help young people.

Mrs Shirley Williams (Crosby, SDP): Will the Minister be subject to military law and will they at the end of their period have any special status. Some of us are concerned about the possibility of a not properly constituted youth force.

Mr Heseltine: The volunteers, while they are with the Services, will be subject to military law in every respect and that is the only way in which the scheme would be workable, but no one should be seen as a new initiative in the setting up of any new force.

Mr Nigel Spearling (Newham, South, Lab): This is not really the Service, but it is a youth training scheme, the introduction of a new category of temporary service volunteer. Will it apply equally to ladies and gentlemen with roughly £1,250, £1,500, £1,750, £2,000, £2,250, £2,500, £2,750, £3,000, £3,250, £3,500, £3,750, £4,000, £4,250, £4,500, £4,750, £5,000, £5,250, £5,500, £5,750, £6,000, £6,250, £6,500, £6,750, £7,000, £7,250, £7,500, £7,750, £8,000, £8,250, £8,500, £8,750, £9,000, £9,250, £9,500, £9,750, £10,000, £10,250, £10,500, £10,750, £11,000, £11,250, £11,500, £11,750, £12,000, £12,250, £12,500, £12,750, £13,000, £13,250, £13,500, £13,750, £14,000, £14,250, £14,500, £14,750, £15,000, £15,250, £15,500, £15,750, £16,000, £16,250, £16,500, £16,750, £17,000, £17,250, £17,500, £17,750, £18,000, £18,250, £18,500, £18,750, £19,000, £19,250, £19,500, £19,750, £20,000, £20,250, £20,500, £20,750, £21,000, £21,250, £21,500, £21,750, £22,000, £22,250, £22,500, £22,750, £23,000, £23,250, £23,500, £23,750, £24,000, £24,250, £24,500, £24,750, £25,000, £25,250, £25,500, £25,750, £26,000, £26,250, £26,500, £26,750, £27,000, £27,250, £27,500, £27,750, £28,000, £28,250, £28,500, £28,750, £29,000, £29,250, £29,500, £29,750, £30,000, £30,250, £30,500, £30,750, £31,000, £31,250, £31,500, £31,750, £32,000, £32,250, £32,500, £32,750, £33,000, £33,250, £33,500, £33,750, £34,000, £34,250, £34,500, £34,750, £35,000, £35,250, £35,500, £35,750, £36,000, £36,250, £36,500, £36,750, £37,000, £37,250, £37,500, £37,750, £38,000, £38,250, £38,500, £38,750, £39,000, £39,250, £39,500, £39,750, £40,000, £40,250, £40,500, £40,750, £41,000, £41,250, £41,500, £41,750, £42,000, £42,250, £42,500, £42,750, £43,000, £43,250, £43,500, £43,750, £44,000, £44,250, £44,500, £44,750, £45,000, £45,250, £45,500, £45,750, £46,000, £46,250, £46,500, £46,750, £47,000, £47,250, £47,500, £47,750, £48,000, £48,250, £48,500, £48,750, £49,000, £49,250, £49,500, £49,750, £50,000, £50,250, £50,500, £50,750, £51,000, £51,250, £51,500, £51,750, £52,000, £52,250, £52,500, £52,750, £53,000, £53,250, £53,500, £53,750, £54,000, £54,250, £54,500, £54,750, £55,000, £55,250, £55,500, £55,750, £56,000, £56,250, £56,500, £56,750, £57,000, £57,250, £57,500, £57,750, £58,000, £58,250, £58,500, £58,750, £59,000, £59,250, £59,500, £59,750, £60,000, £60,250, £60,500, £60,750, £61,000, £61,250, £61,500, £61,750, £62,000, £62,250, £62,500, £62,750, £63,000, £63,250, £63,500, £63,750, £64,000, £64,250, £64,500, £64,750, £65,000, £65,250, £65,500, £65,750, £66,000, £66,250, £66,500, £66,750, £67,000, £67,250, £67,500, £67,750, £68,000, £68,250, £68,500, £68,750, £69,000, £69,250, £69,500, £69,750, £70,000, £70,250, £70,500, £70,750, £71,000, £71,250, £71,500, £71,750, £72,000, £72,250, £72,500, £72,750, £73,000, £73,250, £73,500, £73,750, £74,000, £74,250, £74,500, £74,750, £75,000, £75,250, £75,500, £75,750, £76,000, £76,250, £76,500, £76,750, £77,000, £77,250, £77,500, £77,750, £78,000, £78,250, £78,500, £78,750, £79,000, £79,250, £79,500, £79,750, £80,000, £80,250, £80,500, £80,750, £81,000, £81,250, £81,500, £81,750, £82,000, £82,250, £82,500, £82,750, £83,000, £83,250, £83,500, £83,750, £84,000, £84,250, £84,500, £84,750, £85,000, £85,250, £85,500, £85,750, £86,000, £86,250, £86,500, £86,750, £87,000, £87,250, £87,500, £87,750, £88,000, £88,250, £88,500, £88,750, £89,000, £89,250, £89,500, £89,750, £90,000, £90,250, £90,500, £90,750, £91,000, £91,250, £91,500, £91,750, £92,000, £92,250, £92,500, £92,750, £93,000, £93,250, £93,500, £93,750, £94,000, £94,250, £94,500, £94,750, £95,000, £95,250, £95,500, £95,750, £96,000, £96,250, £96,500, £96,750, £97,000, £97,250, £97,500, £97,750, £98,000, £98,250, £98,500, £98,750, £99,000, £99,250, £99,500, £99,750, £100,000, £100,250, £100,500, £100,750, £101,000, £101,250, £101,500, £101,750, £102,000, £102,250, £102,500, £102,750, £103,000, £103,250, £103,500, £103,750, £104,000, £104,250, £104,500, £104,750, £105,000, £105,250, £105,500, £105,750, £106,000, £106,250, £106,500, £106,750, £107,000, £107,250, £107,500, £107,750, £108,000, £108,250, £108,500, £108,750, £109,000, £109,250, £109,500, £109,750, £110,000, £110,250, £110,500, £110,750, £111,000, £111,250, £111,500, £111,750, £112,000, £112,250, £112,500, £112,750, £113,000, £113,250, £113,500, £113,750, £114,000, £114,250, £114,500, £114,750, £115,000, £115,250, £115,500, £115,750, £116,000, £116,250, £116,500, £116,750, £117,000, £117,250, £117,500, £117,750, £118,000, £118,250, £118,500, £118,750, £119,000, £119,250, £119,500, £119,750, £120,000, £120,250, £120,500, £120,750, £121,000, £121,250, £121,500, £121,750, £122,000, £122,250, £122,500, £122,750, £123,000, £123,250, £123,500, £123,750, £124,000, £124,250, £124,500, £124,750, £125,000, £125,250, £125,500, £125,750, £126,000, £126,250, £126,500, £126,750, £127,000, £127,250, £127,500, £127,750, £128,000, £128,250, £128,500, £128,750, £129,000, £129,250, £129,500, £129,750, £130,000, £130,250, £130,500, £130,750, £131,000, £131,250, £131,500, £131,750, £132,000, £132,250, £132,500, £132,750, £133,000, £133,250, £133,500, £133,750, £134,000, £134,250, £134

South African Indians tell Attenborough to stay away

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Most leaders of the South African Indian community believe Sir Richard Attenborough should not come here next week to attend the opening of his award-winning film *Gandhi*, which will be shown only to racially segregated audiences when it goes out on general release. His presence, it is felt, will lend respectability to apartheid.

Most Indians also feel, however, that because of its message of non-racism and non-violence, it is better that the film should be shown to segregated audiences than to none at all.

"If people, and especially the Government, change their feelings as a result of seeing it, I would be very happy," Mrs. Susheela Gandhi, a daughter-in-law of the Mahatma, told *The Times* yesterday.

A frail 78-year-old, Mrs. Gandhi was - until she became ill - the managing trustee of the Phoenix Settlement, an agrarian self-help community founded by Gandhi during the 21 years he spent in South Africa as a young British-trained lawyer. She turned down an invitation to attend a Durban premiere of the film as a protest against segregated cinemas, and thinks Sir Richard should have made the same gesture.

The Navy visit here, which has been roundly condemned by Spain's Socialist Government, has run into familiar British-style trade union trouble. Water and fuel supplies have been cut off from the 11 warships and two submarines led by the aircraft carrier *Invincible*, with Prince Andrew on board, which docked on Wednesday.

The action by union members among the 1,400 employees in the dockyard was intended as a protest against its closure.

However, it naturally became entangled with the Madrid protest to the clear embarrassment of Mr. Joe Bassano, branch Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and who is also leader of the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party. He agreed to cooperate with the

Navy in "special cases" after a storm of protest greeted the start of what was to have been a 48-hour blacking to stop the fleet being readied for the Spring Train manoeuvres due to start on Monday.

Mr. Bassano promised the blacking would not prevent the Navy being ready to sail from Gibraltar as scheduled on Monday. He admitted his union members would not suffer. Over the weekend they would be paid double time.

He said the nuclear-powered submarine *Splendid*, which arrived an hour after the blacking had begun, was given shore-supplied electricity and yesterday, the flagship *Bristol* was attended to, because its water-making equipment had broken down. The blacking had earlier prevented the destroyer *getting shore water*.

Protest against dockyard closure

Gibraltar unions 'black' Royal Navy fleet

From Richard Wigg, Gibraltar

A Navy spokesman admitted that the blacking, ordered by the Gibraltar Trades Council, was "causing a lot of inconvenience to sailors a long time at sea and described the situation as 'unfortunate'."

Watched by only two of the three Spanish vessels which witnessed the arrival, the Spring Train force of about 4,000 officers and men did training exercises aboard their ships, according to the spokesman, who said any further details were "naturally secret."

The blacking, has been condemned by Sir Joshua Hassan, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, as ill-timed and playing into the hands of the colony's enemies. It has also evidently made the unions unpopular among many ordinary Gibraltarians.

Mr. Wilfrid Garcia, president

of Gibraltar's Chamber of Commerce, emphasized how much Gibraltar needs Navy visits, both economically and politically.

"We can only count on Mrs. Thatcher for gestures like this," he said. "The Foreign Office does not seem to be getting the message that Gibraltar's economy has got to be supported so that it does not matter what the Spaniards do."

The Spanish protest, he said, was dictated by a belief that they had a commanding position in negotiations with Britain over the Rock's future, because the colony's economic difficulties had been increased by last December's partial opening of the frontier with Spain.

MADRID: Dispatching the British fleet to Gibraltar was "an anachronistic act, politi-

cally not a very intelligent act," Señor Fernando Morán, Spain's Foreign Minister, said in an interview broadcast here yesterday by the state-run national radio, Harry Debelius writes.

Señor Morán was interviewed by a radio reporter on his arrival in Mexico City, his first official stop on a Latin American goodwill trip which will also take in Colombia. He left Madrid on Wednesday.

The opinion of Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, was somewhat more subdued. He said that his Government would maintain "the necessary balance between prudence and firmness," while at the same time "acting bilaterally and in other forums to make it plain that we consider the British action to be out of proportion with Spain's own conduct."

Algeria 'in £300m arms deal with Britain'

Britain is about to win a £300m arms deal with Algeria, the military journal *International Defence Review*, said in London. It includes six 120ft fast patrol boats from Brooke Marine, of Lowestoft, Suffolk.

The Algerians are also ordering two tank landing ships from Brooke Marine and Vosper Thornycroft, Helicopters, 20 to 30 British Aerospace Hawk jet trainers, and armoured vehicles.

The export agreement, or "memorandum of understanding," has not yet been signed, the journal adds.

31,500 Sikhs pledge lives

Delhi (Reuters) - Thousands of Sikh volunteers took vows in the city of Amritsar to sacrifice their lives for their cause in an intensification of the Sikh militant campaign in Punjab.

Harchand Singh Longowal, leader of the Sikh Akali Dal party, presided at the oath-taking ceremony which 31,500 took, he said. A force of 100,000 is planned.

Struggle ends

Bologna, (Reuters) - Italy's left-wing Prima Linea (Front Line) guerrilla group, once the most powerful group after the Red Brigades, has abandoned its armed struggle against the state, Signor Paolo Zambianchi, one of its leaders, told journalists while on trial. Last year 87 of its members were jailed for a total of 467 years.

Finnish bribes

Helsinki, (Reuters) - Six executives of the Finnish company Siemens Oy have been charged with bribing officials (between 1975 and 1982) to obtain orders, a public prosecutor said. Officially employed by Helsinki's underground railway and the national post office were also named.

Russian shot

Moscow, (Reuters) - A Russian named only as V. Vecher, accused of taking part in massacres of villagers during the Second World War, has been shot as a war criminal, a Soviet newspaper reported. He was sentenced to death by a Leningrad military court.

Sicily arrests

Palermo, (AP) - Police took into custody 12 people for questioning in connection with the killing on Tuesday of Antonio Sorci, 78, known as Nino the Rich, and his son Carlo. The elder Sorci was a suspected drugs smuggler.

B52 found

Las Vegas, (AP) - An American B52 bomber which disappeared on Monday was found after a two-day search through snow and rain to have crashed into a southern Utah mountainside, killing all seven crew.

Nuclear leak

Brussels, (AFP) - Slightly radioactive "water is leaking from the Tihange nuclear power plant in the Ardennes, the operating company Intercom said. The pollution was insignificant and the plant would be shut for about 10 days.

Trouble at mill

Bombay, (Reuters) - More than 1,000 striking textile mill workers, including their leader, Datta Samant, were arrested in Bombay for defying an official ban on demonstrations. They tried to protest outside homes of MPs who have yet to join the city's 15-month-old strike.

Bishops will not stay silent, Mugabe told

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

In a studied reply to an attack 10 days ago by Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, in which he described them as "sanctimonious prelates", Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic bishops today upheld what they call a duty to speak on political matters when individual rights are involved.

In a statement to mark the third anniversary of independence on Monday the bishops said they regretted the unfortunate situation in some parts of the country, but said there were indications that life in the ravaged province of Matabeleland was returning to normal after bloody anti-insurgency operations by the security forces.

"Drought relief is being resumed, curfews are being lifted, stores and schools are being reopened and bus services are being restored," they said.

The latest word from the bishops comes on the heels of an Easter pastoral statement in which they denounced army brutality, which they said had resulted in a reign of terror. Hundreds of peasants had been killed, maimed and raped in wanton atrocities.

Mr. Mugabe, responded some days later by bitterly censuring the bishops, saying they had submitted to external pressure to condemn the Government.

In their latest statement, the bishops say they do not see these exchanges as marring the good relationship between the Government and churches and that their sole objective in speaking out had been to promote true and lasting peace.

Mitterrand explains expulsions

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand has denied that the expulsion from France earlier this month of 47 alleged Russian spies and their families was in any way intended to be an act of hostility toward Russia.

It was the first time that Mitterrand commented in public on the affair. He was being interviewed on Swiss television on the eve of a two-day official visit to Switzerland.

"It is normal that when a country discovers illegal activities being carried out on its territory, it reacts," Mitterrand said. "That should surprise no one. It is not a special act of hostility towards the country in question... My relations with the Soviet Union will be excellent the day that both of us understand that mutual respect is the best of international law."

As the two Britons expelled in a "tit for tat" retaliation left Moscow yesterday, diplomats said they were puzzled by continuing anti-French statements in the Soviet press, which could indicate that the Soviet Union does not intend to rehabilitate France on a large scale, Richard Owen writes.

At Moscow airport Squadron-Leader David Williams, the assistant Air Attache, and Mr. Anthony Robinson of the *Financial Times* were seen off by a large group of friends and colleagues, including Sir Ian Sutherland, the British Ambassador.

Eitan's insults rebound

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

He saw no reason why it could not be stopped. "All we need to do is carry on with our settlement effort and increase it," he said. "When 100 settlements are established between Nablus (the largest occupied Arab town) and Jerusalem, there will be no stones thrown at Jews there."

To the astonishment of some committee members, the general - who is due to retire later this week - then added: "When we have settled the land, all the Arabs will be able to do will be to scuttle about like drugged cockroaches in a bottle."

A group of 18 left-wing Knesset members, including 10 from the main opposition Labour Party, have written to Mr. Moshe Arens, the new Defence Minister, demanding that he reprimands the general and describing his remarks as "a stain on the honour of the Army". Another deputy, Mr. Tzvi Toubi of the Ratzin Communist party, has written to the Attorney General urging him to prosecute General Eitan for "racist remarks".

The controversy began on Tuesday when the Army commander, an officer noted for his outspoken political views, made his farewell visit to the all-party defence and foreign affairs committee, during which he read out a satirical poem dedicated with "respect and contempt" to Mr. Yossi Sarid, one of the most dovish members who belongs to the Labour Party.

The supposedly satirical Hebrew verse made reference to people who crawled up the tails of animals and found themselves covered in what parliamentarians later translated as "manure".

Questioned about the recent spate of stone-throwing attacks against Israelis in the West Bank, General Eitan was reported to have told the meeting

Stolen kisses in a crowd

A warm kiss on the cheek for the Prince of Wales and a more courtly kiss on the hand for the Princess, darling of the Melbourne crowd yesterday.

The city is the last point of call in Australia for the royal couple who fly to New Zealand on Sunday for a two-week tour. As with every leg of their Australian tour, the Prince and Princess were given a rousing welcome when they arrived at the airport.

During speeches of welcome it was announced that hundreds of deprived and orphaned Australian children will have a special present from the couple when they leave for New Zealand.

The Princess has been given hundreds of toys, books and stuffed animals for Prince William during her progress through the towns and cities of Australia. So the royal couple have decided to give something back. The huge pile of presents will be shared with children in homes and orphanages throughout the land. Mr. Victor Chapman, their press secretary, said.

Like the thousands of bouquets the Princess has received during her visit, which are sent to hospitals, government authorities have been asked to distribute the presents to those who would appreciate them most.

Prince Charles assured the Melbourne that Prince William would be "taking back with him countless presents" and would need no more.

Today the royal couple will visit different parts of Victoria

Cairo second thoughts on Reagan proposal

From Our Correspondent, Cairo

Egypt is reassessing its commitment to the Reagan plan in the light of the initial failure of talks between Jordan and the PLO on implementing the American proposal, a Foreign Ministry official here said on Thursday. He emphasized that Egypt did not consider the Reagan plan dead, but said: "We have no firm position on it."

Dr. Ussama al-Bazz, President Mubarak's chief foreign policy adviser, said on Wednesday that Egypt would "float fresh ideas to reconcile differences between Jordan and the PLO," but the Foreign Ministry declined to say what these ideas were.

Dr. al-Bazz was reacting to a statement by Mr. Yasir Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive, who said in Stockholm: "We shall do our best to continue

Angolan leader in secret talks with Shultz

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The United States and the Marxist regime in Angola have taken a further step towards normalizing relations after a secret meeting this week between Mr. George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Lieutenant-Colonel Manuel Alexandre Rodrigues, the Angolan Interior Minister.

It was the highest-level meeting between the two countries since Angola became independent from Portugal in 1975. Colonel Rodrigues may also have a meeting with Vice-President George Bush before he returns to Angola.

American officials cautioned that the establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Luanda Government would not be possible until there was an agreement on the withdrawal of some 25,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

Colonel Rodrigues, who is considered to be the second man in the Angolan Government, came to Washington for talks on a Cuban withdrawal and the associated problem of Namibian (South West African) independence. He had been expected to bring with him a new proposal for the parallel withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and South African forces from Namibia. However, US officials said he had made no such proposal.

Nuclear freeze vote delayed by Republicans

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Republicans forced the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives to postpone until next week a vote on a resolution calling for a halt to development and deployment of new United States and Soviet nuclear weapons.

Democrats are confident that the non-binding resolution will be easily adopted probably next Wednesday. The Republicans had prepared about 40 amendments aimed at weakening the resolution, which is strongly opposed by President Reagan.

Opponents of the freeze said the resolution would prevent the administration from modernizing US nuclear forces to match the big Soviet military outpour. The postponement came on Wednesday, after a long debate.

Swedes accuse Russia over spy submarine

From Christopher Mossey, Stockholm

An official government report on an incident last year in which a foreign submarine entered Swedish waters off the top-secret eastern naval base of Mucko is expected to disclose that the Soviet Union was responsible for the incursion, using it to test new underwater vehicles, it was reliably reported yesterday.

The report by the parliamentary commission appointed by Mr. Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, will be published on April 26 but details were leaked yesterday by the newspaper *Dagens Nyheter*.

Members of the commission refused either to confirm or deny this story.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly denied it was responsible and the identification could lead to a diplomatic dispute.

Drifting pack ice takes polar walker south

By Richard Dowden

There was no relief again yesterday for David Hempleman-Adams, the 26-year-old Bristol man who is walking alone to the North Pole. The aircraft which drops his food supplies has been delayed for six days by bad weather and his emergency rations are destined to last for only seven days.

"He will not die of starvation yet. He will eat out his rations," Mr. Martin White, his London-based contact man said.

"But his problem is working out an equation. He usually consumes and uses up about 7,000 calories a day. His emergency rations give him only 20 or 3,000 calories a day, so he has to do less or even stay still. This means he is actually

going backwards at the rate of three miles a day, because the pack ice drifts south as it melts. "He is very depressed, but it is my guess he will not give up yet. He is very, very determined and very strong", Mr. White said.

The 60ft ice ridges are behind him and the temperature has risen from minus 50C to minus 35C. The possibility of a break in the ice becomes more likely with every day that passes.

Nearer the Pole, there is also a greater danger of being attacked by polar bears. Virtually every North Pole expedition has been harassed by polar bears. Mr. Hempleman-Adams is carrying a light rifle.



ESTD 1830

TEACHER'S HIGHLAND CREAM

TEACHER'S. A WELCOME AWAITING.

The message of Chicago

American blacks flex their new-found muscle at the polls

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

This week's election of Mr Harold Washington as the first black Mayor of Chicago was dramatic confirmation that the black electorate in the United States is becoming an increasingly visible and strategically crucial voting block.

If it had not been for a massive turnout by black voters, who comprise about 40 per cent of the city's registered electorate, Mr Washington would not even have won last February's Democratic primary. Conversely, if Mr Washington had not emerged early in the contest as a viable candidate, then many blacks would not have bothered to vote at all.

The Chicago election has important implications for the Democratic Party as it prepares for next year's presidential elections. Blacks form the single most cohesive element in the Democratic Party coalition, and a massive show of black voting power as witnessed in Chicago this week could enable a Democratic president to move into the White House again in 1985.

However, if the party is seen to be leaning too far in an effort to capture black support it will risk alienating the same kind of white voters who moved en masse from the Democratic to Republican camps in the Chicago mayoral contest. The race issue is very much a two-edged sword.

The result also contains important lessons for the nation's black leaders as they discuss whether to field a black presidential candidate in the 1984 primaries. Some believe that Mr Washington's cam-



Rev Jesse Jackson: Seeks "coalition of rejection."

paign, which attracted the support (albeit belated) of most national Democratic Party leaders, proves that black political progress is best achieved by working from within the party. Others, however, among them the black political activist, the Rev Jesse Jackson, maintain that a black presidential candidate is needed not only to symbolize the growing strength of black voters but also to dramatize the plight of blacks and other minorities.

Blacks account for 10.5 per cent of the electorate, yet only 20 out of 435 US congressmen are black. There are no black state governors. Only at city level, in places like Los Angeles, Atlanta, Detroit, Washington and Birmingham, have blacks made it to the top, a fact that reflects the changing demographics of American cities.

However, over the past two years blacks have increasingly started to flex their political muscles.

Just how important the black

vote has become was summed up in a new study by the influential Jount Centre for Political Studies in Washington, which said: "A Presidential Democratic victory in 1984 is inconceivable without a strong black showing in northern cities and the south."

The study noted that the black vote was heavily concentrated in six northern states - Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania - which are of vital importance in presidential elections because of the large numbers of votes they carry.

It is statistics such as these that have persuaded some black leaders that it would be worthwhile fielding a black presidential candidate.

Mr Jackson, president of People United to Save Humanity (Push), who has already been testing the waters in Iowa and Rhode Island, wrote in a recent article that a black candidate would force the Democratic Party to have a greater appreciation of the black vote.

"Eighteen million black voters," he wrote "can be the cornerstone of a new coalition of the rejected (the real silent majority) that can create new political options in 1984."

Others disagree, arguing that a black candidate could divide black leaders and drain support from the Democratic nominee.

The question of a black candidate will not be settled until next month, by which time black leaders will have had time to study how the present Democratic runners propose dealing with issues of special interest to blacks.



Chaos in Rhineland as floods recede

Bonn (Reuters) - Flood waters from the rain-swollen Rhine began to recede yesterday but officials said it would take weeks to repair damage in Cologne, Bonn and other Rhineland towns.

Much of the historic old centre of Cologne was still under water, swamping restaurants, bars and nightclubs and causing a third day of traffic havoc.

One bar owner, typifying the humour with which residents have adapted to life under 3ft of water, set up bar stools in the street outside his flooded establishment and served beer to the firemen.

Police in Cologne had to set up roadblocks to keep away thousands of sightseers, presaging for a glimpse of the worst floods in 15 years, who were hampering relief workers.

As the floods receded in Bonn, murky water still washed around the entrances to the Bundestag building and in one low-lying part of the capital postmen delivered the mail by boat yesterday.

Flooding also receded in eastern France after five days of widespread inundation in which 12 people were reported to have died. But officials said the situation was still worrying east of Paris where the levels of the Seine, Marne and Yonne rivers were likely to continue rising for another five days.

West German river police said barge traffic on the Rhine, West Europe's busiest inland waterway, would not resume before Sunday at the earliest.

Rhineland city officials said it was too early to assess the cost of damage but an official in

Koblenz, where flooding was the worst since 1926, said he feared severe damage from heating oil which had seeped out of flooded basements.

Trade and agriculture sources said planting of summer grain crops in West Germany was running three to four weeks behind schedule because of prolonged heavy rain which had waterlogged fields even in areas unaffected by the flooding.

Insurance companies said most flood victims with ordinary household insurance policies would get no compensation but state authorities have promised tax relief.

Telephone lines were cut in parts of Cologne and Bonn and in several villages on the Rhine and Mosel. Agriculture sources said only about half of the planned summer grain crop, usually planted by the end of March, had been sown so far.

In the Mosel valley, a district official said, flood damage to hotels, restaurants and wine cellars would run to millions of marks. Growers in the vineyards of Bernkastel and Piesport, which produce world-famous white wines, feared that heating oil could have seeped into the wine barrels.

Flood water had also washed the labels off vintage bottles, making it impossible to identify wines.

In Cologne, officials said the water level should fall back below the city's protective dyke enabling firemen to begin pumping away flood waters. They said a key tunnel on the Rhine side expressway, had been protected from flooding by giant steel gates which withstood the water pressure.

Oil slick meeting founders

A burning oil well spewing flame and smoke in Iran's offshore Nowruz field, north of Kharg island. The photograph was taken by a crewman on a passing oil tanker.

Wide differences between warring Iraq and Iran yesterday forced a further postponement of talks in Kuwait on capping the shattered Iranian oil wells which have been spewing crude into the Gulf since early March, conference sources said.

Ministers from eight Gulf states, including Iran and Iraq, had hoped to meet in full session in the morning. Amid claim and counterclaim, Iraq said yesterday Iran's latest offensive had been defeated with 9,832 troops killed and "not one inch" of Iraqi land lost.

Earlier Tehran announced that Iranian forces had captured 12 square miles of Iraqi territory and killed 6,400 Iraqi troops in their latest drive.

Tehran radio said another 900 Iraqi troops had been killed or wounded during a counter-attack at dawn on Wednesday.

Letter from Moscow

Still a market among Russians for miracles

Just outside Moscow proper, in what used to be the countryside until Khrushchev started expanding the city limits with high-rise flats, there is a miraculous spring. Nowadays it emerges from a metal pipe in a stone wall with a chipped swan in ceramic tiles on it. But the spring is called the "Swan Princess spring" - is held to be legendary, which goes back to antiquity, or at least the eighteenth century.

On any weekend, whether in the depths of winter or now as the first hint of warmer weather begins to melt the snow and ice, you can see a procession of Muscovites with tin cans and containers wending their way down the woodland path and down steep stone steps to the spring.

The name was once the estate of a nineteenth-century industrialist, who built a grandiose turreted mansion in the grounds. It is now an agricultural institute (and sadly neglected) and quite obviously a Victorian folly, but there are those who swear Catherine the Great lived in it. Equally, people queuing to fill jugs and containers with the healing waters of the spring say Catherine used to bathe in it (presumably in the summer).

The is a strong streak of the credulous in most Russians, despite the official materialist philosophy and emphasis on science and reason. Many seem to have a powerful desire to believe in legends and folk remedies. As far as is known, the health-giving powers of the "Swan Princess" waters have not been put to the test.

The fact is many Russians are sceptical of modern medicine, and home remedies abound, most of the based on herbal brews which have their origins in Russia's peasant past. Russians place great faith in healers such as the lady who treated the late President Brezhnev. She spawned numerous imitators who claimed to be able to heal through the laying on of hands, and whose customers included five-star generals and top party officials.

But it is the miracle-working power of water which has special hold on the Russian imagination. Not long ago a Soviet newspaper exposed an old man and his son who were selling "holy water" at an exorbitant profit in a village in the Ukraine. The paper said their fame had spread far and wide and hundreds of sick people gathered every day to buy holy water (which in fact came from a tap) at five roubles a jug.

The swindlers had accumulated thousands of roubles worth of cash and gold, and boasted eight cars. The old man's reputation for miracle-working had been so great that he had been able to earn in one hour as much as a qualified doctor could make in three months and his patients had ranged from simple people to intellectuals.

It was a sign of the times, the paper noted, that when the two tricksters were arrested most of the people they had "treated" were angry with the authorities.

Richard Owen

Strikers seize Eiffel Tower

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Medical students in Paris marked the beginning of the third month of their strike yesterday by occupying the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower, while doctors in teaching hospitals announced they would continue with their strike, which has brought chaos to hospitals throughout the country for the past three weeks.

Both groups are protesting against Government reforms aimed at the democratization and reorganization of what is still a highly conservative and elitist profession, and which is suffering from acute over-manning. The number of doctors in France has tripled in the past 20 years, and unemployment is now a serious problem among newly-qualified medical students are

protesting in particular against the introduction of an examination at the end of their sixth year of studies, which they fear, will lead to further selection and disqualification. They are also opposed to government plans to restrict post-graduate specialist training.

Their non-violent actions to publicize their nationwide strike have been imaginative and often spectacular. They have included the release of hundreds of laboratory rats and mice in public buildings; the plastering over of parking metres; the blocking of railway and Metro lines; the occupation of the Strasbourg cathedral spire; the removal of paving stones, to carry out "open-heart surgery" on Paris streets; and the scattering of thousands of nails on motorways.

The strike by an overwhelming majority of junior doctors and senior registrars in teaching hospitals is over planned reforms which, the doctors say, will reduce their status, severely limit promotion prospects, and harm the quality of specialist training thereby leading to an overall long-term decline in the standard of medical services.

Until now doctors have continued to provide a minimal level of service; all emergency cases have been exempt from the strike, having failed to achieve any satisfaction in their talks with the Government.

The Federation of French Doctors said yesterday the situation was becoming alarming. Some hospitals are already operating at less than 50 per cent of their normal level of activity.

Mitterrand begins Swiss tour

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Economic problems, including the tight currency restrictions on French tourists, loom large in the talks President Mitterrand is having during a crowded 48-hour visit to Switzerland, the first by a French President since M. Armand Fallières came here in August, 1910.

He was greeted at Zurich airport yesterday by his Swiss counterpart, M. Pierre Aubert, also Minister of Foreign Affairs. They went on by special train to Bern, the federal capital. In a formal address of welcome, the Swiss President referred to "friction points" and underlined the need for both governments to "energetically resist the temptations of protectionism". As a trading partner of Switzerland, France comes second only to West Germany and the French account for about 9 per cent of tourists in Switzerland.

The French party includes the Ministers of Foreign Trade and Tourism, who are having separate meetings with their Swiss opposite numbers. The Swiss public awaits with



Guard of honour: President Mitterrand at Zurich - Kloten airport yesterday.

interest the "symbolic gesture" M. Mitterrand has said he will make with regard to "Napoleon's debt".

This is the claim periodically put forward by Bourg St Pierre, on the road to the Grand St Bernard pass, for payment of a 45,000 Swiss francs bill for food, materials and manpower of which Napoleon's forces

availed themselves when crossing the Alps into Italy in 1800. While France has maintained this was settled under the 1815 Treaty of Vienna, Bourg St Pierre contends it received only a 15,000 franc token payment, and has successfully exploited its claim in more recent times to keep its name on the tourism map.

Primate defines attitude to women priests

From W P Reeves, Wellington

Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said here yesterday that he would be willing to take part in Anglican communion services in which women priests were involved, but he would not preside over them.

Dr Runcie said it would not be honest for him to preside jointly over a communion service in which women priests took part.

He said that he was among those who said "not yet" rather than "never" to the ordination of women.

Unlike the Church of England, the Anglican Church in New Zealand ordains women priests.

The Archbishop is due to attend a luncheon with Anglican women clergy in Auckland on April 26.

China asks New Zealand to buy more

Wellington (Reuters) Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, yesterday discussed possible joint ventures with Mr Robert Muldoon, his New Zealand counterpart.

Mr Muldoon told a press conference after the two-hour meeting that the Chinese leader was interested in more joint ventures, in China, but added: "They should be further advanced before I say anything about them."

Mr Muldoon said the talks showed there was clearly a good relationship between the two countries. Mr Zhao had raised the issue of the trade imbalance between the two countries, asking New Zealand to buy more goods from Peking to reduce it. But it was "not a major issue between us", Mr Muldoon added.

Woolworth building gets landmark status

From Christopher Thomas, New York

The Woolworth Building in Manhattan, tallest in the world from 1913 to 1930 and prototype for the romantic skyscrapers of New York, has been given landmark status, despite the furious objections of its owners.

The majestic Gothic-style spire is now overshadowed by other huge constructions including the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, second-tallest building in the world.

Although not one of the main tourist traps, it remains an important symbol to New York and to twentieth-century America. The opening of the building 70 years ago was when New York started to get outrageous and everything in America started to get big.

It is known as the Cathedral of Commerce and is the world headquarters of Woolworth. Frank Woolworth, the company's founder, ordered it to be built higher than the Metropolitan Tower and it held its place as the world's tallest until the Chrysler Building reached a little higher.

The City Landmarks Preservation Commission, which was too late to protect other beautiful buildings swept away in Manhattan's frenetic bulldoze-and-build routine, also ordered the building's lobby to be preserved.

Woolworth has treated the building well and spent huge sums of money on it. But it has always strongly opposed landmark status as burdensome.

For years, conservationists have been fighting to have the building officially listed, but agencies seemed satisfied that Woolworth was not likely to do anything dire. Their view was confirmed in 1977, when the company started spending \$22m (£14m) on restoring the facade, an enterprise that was completed last year.

But despite such lavish preservation, the commission finally bowed to the increasingly vociferous cries for the structure to be protected from future generations who might not be so munificent.

Thai voting ends with 13 killed

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

More Thais have lost their lives in the general election campaign than in 10 days of fighting with the Vietnamese on the Cambodian border. Five Thai soldiers died in the fighting, but 13 candidates and canvassers have been murdered during three weeks of campaigning for the election next Monday.

There were six killings on Wednesday alone. A candidate and one of his canvassers were killed when a bomb exploded in their car at Chiang Rai in the north, and four other canvassers were killed in a hail of automatic rifle fire while travelling on a road close to Bangkok.

These incidents are seen by experienced commentators as a sign of the fervour and interest aroused by the election, the thirteenth since the absolute monarchy came to an end in 1932.

Former communist insurgents are among the candidates. They are not standing as Communist Party candidates because communism is still outlawed but they are advocating Marxist policies.

One independent candidate at Sakon Nakhon in the north-east is the son of a local folk hero, Krong Chandasawong, who was executed without trial in 1961 because the Government suspected he was a communist. The son, Mr Witthi, is conducting some of his political meetings in the field where his father was shot.

Another coalition government composed of several political parties is expected to

The new Government is expected to be led by a compromise Prime Minister, possibly General Prem Tinsulanonda, the present holder of that office. General Prem is not a candidate, but that is no disqualification as the Prime Minister needs only the support of a majority in Parliament.

Pisani challenges press over aid to Ethiopia

From George Clark, Strasbourg

Reports in the British press that food aid sent to Ethiopia is not reaching the starving people for whom it was intended and that some had been diverted to the Soviet Union to pay for weapons for the Ethiopian Army were firmly denied by Mr Edgard Pisani, EEC Commissioner for aid to the third world, in the European Parliament yesterday.

Although he did not specify it, his main target were reports from Simon Winchester published in *The Sunday Times*. He produced a bulky dossier which he had received from Addis Ababa on Wednesday and claimed that it contained documentary evidence which showed that the food had reached the starving people, both in the area controlled by the Ethiopian Government and the guerrilla-controlled areas.

He challenged journalists and others to provide evidence to back their claims. They had to acknowledge that Western ambassadors in Addis Ababa and the Asian and African bureau had investigated and found that the distribution was satisfactory.

Mr Pisani said that since January 1981, the EEC had sent 68,000 tonnes of cereals, 7,000 tonnes of skimmed milk and 4,000 tonnes of butter oil to Ethiopia and its distribution had been supervised closely by voluntary aid organizations. It is not true it had gone to feed the Ethiopian Army.

On the allegation that some shipments were transferred to vessels going to the Soviet Union, Mr Pisani declared angrily: "That is not true. Never at any time has anyone produced proof of this."

Arms bill twenty times bigger than that for aid

From John Earle, Rome

The cost of a nuclear aircraft carrier is more than the gross national product of 53 of the world's poorer countries. World military spending is expanding rapidly and stands at 20 times the total of overseas development aid.

These figures were quoted by Mr Edouard Saouma, director general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, in a speech in Rome he appealed for the grain surpluses of the main producing countries to be used to help developing countries to build national reserves against future shortages.

The developing countries themselves, Mr Saouma told FAO's committee on world food security, spend yearly as much on armament imports as on their total food imports.

Argentine parties campaign furiously for members

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

In the past few months, Argentina's political parties have been conducting a furious membership campaign, setting up stalls in the main cities and calling on passers-by to sign up.

Florida Street, in central Buenos Aires, has become something of a democratic microcosm. The Peronists, Radicals, Intransigents, Socialists, and other parties have set up their stands only yards apart.

A small man with a moustache said: "Elections will only make things worse," to a crowd shaking their heads in disagreement. Struggling to make himself heard, he added: "Because we don't have a leader, a man with a clean record."

A second pavement politician interrupted: "Well if we don't have one, let's order a test-tube baby. Anything is better than this." Another voice chimed in: "There are no miracles. The only solution is the organization and struggle of the masses."

The parties' campaign is taking place under a law passed by the military Government last September. To obtain electoral recognition the parties must prove they have a membership of more than four per thousand names on the electoral roll in each district.

For national recognition they need to meet the minimum level in five districts, and achieve a national membership of at least two per thousand of

the electorate. There are 24 electoral districts in the country. The big parties closed their recruitment drive on March 30. Other groupings considered new under the Government's legislation have another two months to gather members. The elections are due to be held on October 30.

It is a complex process. A new member signs four membership cards. He keeps one, the party keeps one, and the others are passed on to the electoral court for verification. There have already been some problems. Some over-enthusiastic citizens seem to be joining various parties. There are also cases of errors in the way the forms are filled in. The membership cards must be labori-

ously cross-checked against the electoral rolls.

A further factor is that the mass parties, the Peronists and the Radicals - have yet to play out their internal struggles. The different factions in these parties are measuring their strength in the recruitment drive. These parties must hold conventions to elect authorities and nominate candidates before the September 10 deadline.

There are no hard figures yet, but some general indications of how the parties are faring. The Peronists claim that they are leading the membership battle, with 1,300,000 cards handed in to the electorate authorities. The Radicals say they are on 800,000 and rising. Among the other parties, the

Movement for Integration and Development, the Intransigent Party, the Communist Party and a handful of others are confident that they will score national recognition. These claims have yet to be confirmed by the electoral authorities.

While some opinion polls give the Radicals the edge in the overall campaign, seasoned political observers expect the Peronists - who have won every election they have been allowed to take part in since 1945 - to gather most votes (bearing a major internal crisis splitting the movement).

In their scenario, the Peronists might end up short of an overall majority, and 1984 could see a coalition government.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Having a disconcertingly wonderful time

Sophie's Choice (15)
Empire 1

The Young Ladies of Wilko (PG)
Camden Plaza

The Clinic (18)
Classic Haymarket

Tales of Ordinary Madness (18)
Screen on the Hill;
Studio Oxford Circus

G'Olé! (PG)
Classic Oxford Street

Why was Sophie's Choice Pakula's choice? To elaborate why should someone as stylish and intelligent as Alan J. Pakula direct - and, for the first time, write - a relatively impersonal adaptation of a widely-read novel? Despite the film's virtues, its confident powers of evocation and skilled performances, this nagging question refuses to fade away.

William Styron's bulky novel, published in 1979, tells the semi-autobiographical story of a young Virginian in postwar Brooklyn, fleeing his winning muscles in the volatile company of two fellow lodgers - Nathan, a moody charismatic Jew, and Sophie, a Polish Catholic survivor of the Holocaust. Pakula diligently reduces a discursive volume to cinematically manageable proportions; time and again he demonstrates his sensitivity to the dramatic possibilities of light, colour and the architectural quirks of everything from staircases to Brooklyn Bridge. The balance of light and shade within Sophie's apartment is skilfully moderated to suit the emotional mood; when flashbacks transport us to Auschwitz, the images are drained of colour, rendering the commandant's garden flowers hideously eerie. The inspired photographer is Nestor Almendros.

Sequence by sequence, moment by moment, Sophie's Choice is easy to appreciate. Pakula's scenes are sharply honed and scrupulously atmospheric, and the three main performers generally play with well-modulated fervour. Peter MacNicol grins with boyish eagerness as Styron's alter ego Stingo; Kevin Kline (Nathan) unerringly swings from elated fooling to mad rage. The one partial exception is Meryl Streep, who fascinates her

English and signals her emotions with such meticulous precision that one sometimes cannot see the character for the acting. This may be a performance that wins an Oscar, but it is also ripe for parody.

Yet the film's sum total remains curiously inconsistent - and, for explanation we are drawn back to the persistent question of Styron's novel, and Pakula's muted response. Perhaps it is our English reserve that balks at the American obsession with celebrating friendship, but the continued spectacle of excited individuals having a wonderful time undoubtedly strikes a dead nerve. Styron deliberately sabotages the wonderful times with despair and guilty secrets that fuel one of the novel's points. But the film's subtextual operation is fulfilment: the revelations about Sophie's and Nathan's characters come far too late properly to jolt our perceptions, while the Auschwitz sequence makes their effect more through macabre background detail than foreground action. At the end of the day - and two-and-a-half hours - Sophie's Choice leaves us with brilliant scenes, but an incoherent framework.

The Young Ladies of Wilko, by comparison, is beautifully unified - a sustained reverie about the impossibility of recapturing love's young bloom. Both style and subject may seem surprising for the director is Andrzej Wajda, recently known for abrasive dramas about Poland's turmoil. The present film, however,

was made in 1979, after *Man of Marble* and *Rough Treatment* but before the Gdansk strike and *Man of Iron*. In place of the familiar restless pursuit of uncomfortable urban corners, Wajda's camera dwells longingly, quietly, on the landscapes and interiors of a country estate in the inter-war years. Yet Wajda has inhabited this cinematic territory before, notably in *The Birch Forest* (1970) - a film with the same literary source (the Polish writer Jaroslaw Iwazkiewicz), the same rustic landscape, thoughtful demeanour and male star (Daniel Olbrychski), and related themes of love and death.

Olbrychski's current character may not face death, but his return journey to Wilko's young ladies certainly involves painful thoughts about lost youth. For the girls with whom he once spent a romantic holiday have drifted into spinsterhood, fretful promiscuity, boredom; only the youngest girl (played by the French actress Christine Pascal, discreetly dubbed) inspires any semblance of passion. We watch, fascinated, as past memories become enmeshed with present circumstances over outdoor walks, mealtime arguments and dance sessions round the gramophone. Edward Klosinski's photography steers the images in beauty without ever drowning them in prettiness, and the ladies move through the drama with especially delicate resonance (particularly Maja Komorowska as the nervous, wanton Jola). If a

Maritan visitor demanded urgent proof of Wajda's artistic importance, *The Young Ladies of Wilko* might not be the film to exhibit first, but it is unquestionably the work of a master.

The Clinic is an Australian film about a clinic for venereal diseases; enough said, you might think. Not so, thought the early close-up of a private organ crowded with a sticking plaster hardly inspires confidence. Yet as the film winds its plodding way through the clinic's daily round, the makers' sympathetic, honest attitude becomes increasingly apparent. We have fun with, rather than at the expense of, the varied patients - the nervous adolescents and blasé regulars, the fastidious widow and the cheerful busker ("Hey folks, how you doing?" - there is no reply). Useful information about symptoms and remedies is also imparted; the scriptwriter Greg Millin worked in a VD clinic for three years. The film's mosaic pattern and low-key style help further in avoiding the excesses of sensationalism. Chris Haywood (the young assistant in *Newsfront*) heads a lively, responsive cast; the crisp, compact direction is by David Stevens, best known for his television work on *A Town Like Alice* and the wartime soap *The Sullivans*.

Marco Ferreri's *Tales of Ordinary Madness* - an Italian-French co-production filmed in English on Californian locations in 1981 - views the sexual experience from a far more unpleasant perspective; woe betide us

should Ferreri ever tackle extraordinary madness. The tales are spun by a sudden American poet staggering through life with a bottle in his hand, self-pity on his lips and lust in his head. It is possible, with effort, to imagine a good film from this material (derived from a book by Charles Bukowski). But Ferreri seems to have abandoned the purposeful anarchy of *Dillinger is Dead*, the film that made his reputation 15 years ago; now he merely offers the inert presentation of modifying shocks. Ben Gazzara stumbles through with a glimmer of his usual eccentric fire; only the occasional landscape shot is worth salvaging.

G'Olé! is the official film of the 1982 World Cup football competition in Spain, directed by Tom Clegg (a sprightly British television talent), with Peter Boyle as the all-important supervising editor. Try to imagine a football equivalent of Syberberg's *Paris, With the World Cup trophy as the Holy Grail* and a plethora of injuries replacing Amfortas's single bleeding wound. Both films are trying experiences for the uninformed, and both match sound with image eccentricity. The *Paris* cast mouth to a pre-recorded music track; the World Cup players mime their game to the accompaniment of crowd noise, a flatulent score by Rick Wakeman and Sean Connery's bored narration. The total effect, to an unresponsive spectator, is dangerously soporific; Italy win.

Geoff Brown

Television

Speed on the draw

"If you keep on playing snooker you are going to end no place," Sandy Higgins was told by his teacher, Stuart Love, who had noticed his pupil's absences and who subscribed to the belief, not entirely discredited, that proficiency in snooker is a sign of a misspent youth. Mr Love recalled his warning last night in BBC2's *The Hurricane*, a profile of Alex Higgins, the Embassy World Snooker Champion, who will be potting away for that title again tomorrow with the urgency of a man who must win one more game before the end of the four-minute warning.

Snooker has risen in general esteem since Mr Higgins started flying round the tables, misbehaving himself off them, and endearing himself to crowds with his sporadic brilliance and consistent unpredictability. None of the witnesses in last night's programme, written with an underlying tone of admiration by Hugh McIlvanney and produced by Mike Adley, denied Mr Higgins much of the credit.

Alex Higgins - his parents called him Sandy - was born in Belfast and was drawn to the local snooker hall, The Jam Pot, mainly, he said, because he was not supposed to go in there. By the age of 12 he was taking on his elders for money. His speed, he recalled, had been a matter of survival. If you played for money, lost and could not pay, you had to be quick to dodge a blow on the head with a cue end.

He tried his luck as a stable lad in Berkshire, but, said the trainer's wife, he never did what he should have been doing. A colleague thought his affection

for horses was second to his affection for betting shops.

Soon he was back in Belfast, serving a kind of apprenticeship at the YMCA, playing for half-crowns and breaking opponents as well as the rules against betting. His life then, said an old friend, consisted of ham-burgers, bookmakers and snooker.

He represented Northern Ireland in the British Amateur Championship and crossed the sea to Blackburn to seek his fortune. He carried his cue like a lance and a plastic bag containing a clothes brush and a tin of boot-black. He was taken up by John McLaughlin, the first of what appeared to be a frame of managers whose disappearance from his life was sadly unexpected.

He won his first world championship in 1972, conceded to Ray Reardon at a point where the rules strictly prohibited him from doing so in the 1976 final, and came back triumphantly and tearfully last year.

Marriage and family, he said, not entirely convincingly, had calmed him down. His wife said he rang her twice a day wherever he was and was very considerate. The former world champion John Pulman said he was Jekyll and Hyde - "seventy-five per cent Hyde".

At the end he remained an enigma, looking something between a Thirties Broadway star and a Chicago hit-man and telling us nothing about his motivation, but he was, as always, fast-moving entertainment.

Dennis Hackett

Concerts

Youthful charms

Sinfonietta/Pay
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Music is charming again. On Wednesday the London Sinfonietta entertained with pieces by six British composers under 35, all making music that is smart, intricate and pleasurable; music to divert, or play at digging a little deeper, or maybe both. The temptation might have been to regard such a programme as a competition, but happily each piece was good enough and different enough to stand on its own.

Simon Holt's *Kites* came with a note explaining various references to Japanese kite-flying but this was not specially needed. In fact the piece was more like kites than kites really are. I did not hear much of sudden plummets, of desperate tugs on the line to keep the thing in the air, of chases across muddy fields in pursuit of escapers. All, rather, was beamed with beauty, snappily bright and sometimes suggesting Stravinsky in Far Eastern mood.

Jonathan Lloyd's *Three Dances* confirmed him as one of the funniest composers around. He had the nice idea of writing these choreographies for his children: first an ABC jig for string quartet, hilariously inclined and maddeningly obtuse, perfect baby music for adults, then a wind quintet boogie-woogie that kept snatching up its sibling's toys. The last dance was a teasing portrait of a child.

Paul Griffiths

Sweetly timed

ECO/Del Mar
Barbican

It seems strange that the man whose concerto debut at the age of eight propelled the expatriate Stokowski to acclaim him as "the most astounding genius I have ever heard" should have been hardly known in London when he gave his Queen Elizabeth Hall recital last October.

Oscar Shumsky has chosen to spend his sixty-odd years teaching, conducting, and playing in the United States and is only just returning to the solo concert platform. In the month in which he is recording the Mozart concertos, he made his London concerto debut on Wednesday at the Barbican with the English Chamber Orchestra and Norman Del Mar in a programme which began with Rossini's *Silken Ladder* Overture and ended with Beethoven's Eighth Symphony.

Both were happy companion pieces. For Shumsky's art is one that delights in both theatricality and sophistication and in the sort of childlike wonder and capriciousness that shoots through the veins of the Beethoven. All those elements were present in his Mozart Violin Concerto No 5 in A, projected in a gently individual performing style which nevertheless seemed to be born naturally out of its purely musical purpose.

The ECO had to be, and were not quite always, on their tiptoes in the opening movement, where speed was generated by bright rhythmic insistence, only to be modified and expanded into lightly suspended passages of release, each phrase finely hewn, each staccato note brushed into being by an extraordinarily deft bow. Similarly, the patrician phrasing of

the Adagio, lightly floated above the orchestra like a semi-improvised vocalise, quivered at the same time with a tautly contained inner germ of life. It stole almost imperceptibly into the closing Rondo-musette, tenderly and minutely varied in its every refrain.

Saint-Saëns's Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, written for the young Sarasate, showed the same shy animal spirits liberated into a delightfully nonchalant virtuosity. At once uncannily youthful and sweet with the distance of time, it demanded an encore: a Bach Partita, with a new structural rigour, a shining strength of tone and keenness of pointing.

Hilary Finch

Theatre

Rich imagery of Ruskin's self-searching

Plague Wind
New End

Whistler's 1878 libel suit against Ruskin for the famous gibe that he had "asked two hundred guineas for flinging a pot of paint in the public's face" is just as rich in rhetoric and drama as the Oscar Wilde case. Whistler, like Wilde, relished the spotlight and the solo role - but is seldom, if ever, dramatized. Strange, since the spectacle of art trying to justify itself under the extreme verbal scrutiny of a court of law is mesmerizing even when it does not illuminate, as the *Lady Chatterley* trial showed.

That is the focus of Mr

Ruskin, already subject to bouts of nervous illness, could not appear in court but Thomas McDonald's play puts him firmly at the centre of the case, and the case at the centre of his own self-examination. Every critic worth the name is as stringent with his own work as the work he criticizes, and Ruskin, despite his eloquence and professorship and so forth, could also ask whether he might "speak on ethical subjects though not chastened by a woman's love", and wonder how far his vision of a sublime, edenic wind of artistic decadence sprang from his own frail mental health.

Accurately described by

McDonald's play, and, despite the fascination of other moral and artistic issues, some uneasy, under-writing, purple over-writing and a good deal of really beautiful prose, it stays at the centre.

John Bot's performance is the best I have seen him give. For all of Ruskin's anguish, the intellectual fire is still there. In his image of a filthy storm poisoning his garden roses and strawberries there is a terror for the salting of the Nature he loved, and the art he felt should reflect it, that goes far beyond arid academicism and unbending aesthetic standards.

Anthony Masters

Wickedly funny travesty of Goldoni

La locandiera
Teatro del Ridotto,
Venice

There is no pity rendering in genderless English of the title of this richly naturalistic comedy, but let it be called "The Inkeeperess". Carlo Goldoni (often called "the Italian Molière", although Molière learnt his craft from Italians) was 60 when he wrote it and had left behind the actor-dominated *commedia dell'arte* and precisely engineered farces such as *The Servant of Two Masters*.

A touring Neapolitan production of the piece has just reached Goldoni's native Venice. The house on the first night was, however, not hardly because of audience resistance to staple classics. If anything it was a mark of protest, as it were of Stendhal's boy-croquet some more than usually outrageous case of monkeying about with the Bard. As written La

locandiera has a mixed cast of nine, but it was performed in this staging by three men.

The exigencies of this casting imposed some changes of emphasis. Goldoni's heroine Mirandolina is pursued by three inhabitants of her inn: two elderly nobles (one-mean, both jealous and lascivious) and the servant Fabrizio, to whom she was promised by her father on his deathbed. Also present is a young baron who is bored by women, finding them stupid, selfish and dogmatic. All this selfish arrogance offends Mirandolina, and she takes her revenge by teasing the old men, making the baron besotted and Fabrizio be patient. Erio Masina, director, designer and drag artist, radically reinterpreted all that. The two old men - and Goldoni was good at old men - were largely lost and the action reduced to triangular confrontation between mistress, servant and baron. And, whereas Goldoni ends with Mirandolina promising to be a dutiful wife, the curtain-call here showed the

three of them sharing one bed - less a case of "La locandiera" than of "Il campello": the Italian press called it "diversa", "provocatoria" and "auto-gaio".

It was in addition highly theatrical, inventive and funny. At curtain-rise a tall box revolved teasingly above floor-level footlights, spitting to release a sexually ambiguous Harlequin and itself become a virtuosically adaptable set. The palpable values of Goldoni's world were undermined by bizarre switches of role and gender. Grotesque figures pranced to Vivendi and Orf, paired off peculiarly to the swelling romanticism of Puccini, married to Mendelssohn and, thereafter, jiggered erotically on a see-saw to "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing" (Michael Bogdanov should take note: anyone attempting to complain about this last scene would be laughed out of court).

None of these comic extravaganzas would have held the attention, however, without the

central performance of Erio Masina. His voice ranged from tinkling soprano to barking baritone; his movements (he is not a small man) were delicate without prissiness; above all, given the curiosities of the convention he was establishing, he acted the role convincingly.

But, the absent Venetians might have asked, what had all this to do with Goldoni? Was it not a retrograde step that an author who fought to escape from mere theatricality into the richer world of naturalistic comedy should be travestied by an actor with one bizarre talent, a talent conceivably inimical to coherent drama? Masina himself hoped, at least for the benefit of the press, that Goldoni would not turn in his grave. Goldoni, high on his plinth in the Campo San Bartolomeo, smiled and said nothing. Actors and audience greatly enjoyed themselves. But one day I would like to see the play Goldoni wrote.

Tom Aitken

Dance

Joyce Trisler
Sadler's Wells

Besides their group of historical revivals from the Denishawn period, the Joyce Trisler Dancecompany (what a silly, out-pulling title) has brought works by three modern choreographers to London. Trisler herself, founder and director until her death, is represented by two group ballets and a solo, *Journey*, to Charles Ives's *Unanswered Question: A Nightpiece* from 1909.

Her *Dance for Six* has its cast jiggling about with dotted little steps to Virgil's "et cetera", or striking what must be meant as

bold poses, except that none of the dancers has any amplitude of gesture to make them look interesting. The soft movement style derived from Trisler's origins in Lester Horton's Los Angeles company is not heightened either by the dynamics that Bella Lewinsky developed from Horton's technique, or by the theatricality of Horton himself or his most famous pupil, Alvin Ailey.

It was brave of Trisler to tackle Hindemith's *Four Temperaments*, written for Balanchine and associated with one of his most inimitable ballets. Her version, a direct striking what must be meant as

ends up with a shapeless collection of sequences that makes little of the marvellous score (not that these dancers look particularly sensitive to music anyway).

Milton Myers, who succeeded her as director, offers two short works to some ill-played Stravinsky. *Four Shades* is necessarily more interesting than *Regime*, especially in the quick acrobatics of the second dance, where Regina Larkin and David Christel chase each other rolling across the stage; but again there seems no great regard for the score.

Koon uses music by Stephen Mince that echoes oriental styles by setting breathy wood-

wind frobbing against the faint but insistent twang of bells. Gray Verdon's choreography is equally stereotyped and soporific. The women, in costumes by Penny Howell that make them look gift-wrapped, bow and bend submissively. The men, half-strapped for action, strut unconvincedly. Towards the end there is a momentary rebellion so that you cannot accept the work of serism.

After Sadler's Wells, the Dancecompany has other major engagements in Berlin, Paris, Washington and elsewhere. It seems a very minor company to be playing in such a big league.

John Percival



Persuasive realism in *The Nine Night*: T-Bone Wilson and Oona Kirsch as the son's English girlfriend

The Nine Night
Bush

There is a paradise over the seas of sun, rum and cricket. In England there is only an occasional bottle of rum as a reminder for Hamon Williams, a Jamaican immigrant and still a stranger to his adopted country 20 years on. But his children talk with cockney accents and bring back white friends. His eldest son even wants to play football for England. "Football is not a sport, it is a game", retorts his father.

Edgar White's play, produced by the Black Theatre Co-Operative, outlines with sympathy the desolation that faces the generation who remember their youth in Jamaica. Mixed with Hamon's alienation to the "mother country" is his unhappiness at growing old. When he and his friend, Ferret, reminisce over a game of dominoes and a bottle of rum, or re-enact a sensational innings by Gary Sobers, they are going back in time as well as place.

His fierce protection of his home as a little piece of Jamaica is crooked by his own family. "England never came into our

house before - outside is England, inside is family", he protests. Finally he sees the only way of keeping the English influence out is to return to Jamaica. His unemployed younger son agrees to go, but the elder son and daughter and wife are rooted here, and Ferret breaks down at the thought of realizing the dream. "Everybody I know is either dead or in England - I can't go home."

The cast, directed by Rufus Collins, play with persuasive realism. T-Bone Wilson's Hamon sparks in an instant from depressed lethargy to almost hysterical enthusiasm. Dona Croft as his wife, Irene, has the put-upon but fighting back air of a woman trying to rid herself of the doomist image, and Jason Rose's Ferret reveals loneliness disguised by forced bonhomie. The writing is pungent and witty, though one or two contrived scenes do not quite work. The "confrontation" between Hamon and his son's English girlfriend fizzles out, but Irene's insidious adoption of genteel mannerisms when welcoming a white face is a far more pointed commentary.

Clare Colvin

SPECTRUM

Violent, vigorous and vivid,
India assaults the western
sensitivity. Next week,
Trevor Fishlock ends a
three-year term as South Asia

Correspondent of *The Times*: a period,
he writes in his farewell to the region,
during which 'there has been no dull day'

Mayhem in a mirror

The newsboy's aim is perfect. He stops his bicycle at the front gate and hurls the morning newspapers across the lawn. They touch down on the verandah and skid into the front door with a bang, startling the mynahs who shriek Reveille in the lime tree and wake the dozing nightwatchman. Unfolded over a cup of tea, the papers present their chronicle of astonishments, contention, confusion, anarchy and change as 700 million Indians grapple with modern times, and each other, in their ancient land.

Three die in police firing, the headlines say. Students riot over film tickets. Police kill Dacoits. Dacoits loot train. Monkeys attack police. Politician beheaded. Harijans beheaded. Harijans raped. Witches beaten to death. Urine from tap. Man leaps from funeral pyre. Pharmacists on indefinite strike. Four-year-old boy sacrificed. In-laws burn bride. Woman changes sex to make another pregnant. Monkey's death plunges town into grief. Gold found in semen. PM urges national unity.

Much mayhem is reported down-pipe, for violence is a commonplace, and the maintenance of order, even by ruthless means, is paramount. Police frequently open fire when crowds become frenzied and minor police killings rate only an inch of type. Buses are always crammed, and driven by ruffians, and their numerous crashes, culling people by the score, rate a paragraph or two.

Thanks to the seeping enlightenment provided by education and positive discrimination, some of the 100 million Harijans perceive their oppression more clearly. Of course, they pay for being uppity. The landlords, police and politicians who manage much of rural India with the aid of *lathi*, boot and gun have conservative ideas about social change.

Newspaper majuscules are reserved mostly for politics, the abiding interest of the upper, ruling stratum, and reported prolixity and often impenetrability, so that reading politics is like divining meanings from tea leaves.

Politics in India is about personalities, not beliefs, not right or left. No disgrace is attached to politicians who switch allegiance for cash or access to patronage. In such a power game the policyless Maneka Gandhi can pursue her pique and start a party in the name

of her dead husband to challenge her mother-in-law. Without the name Gandhi the girl would be nothing.

The papers are the main mirrors, for broadcasting is controlled by rulers who fear that free presentation of news would blow air on communal flames as well as shine too bright a light on government. There are few television sets and Indian democracy functions without benefit of box.

Even without television, the hatreds of India's diverse communities seem sometimes to be spontaneously combustible. There is a deep and haunting fear of India splitting, of its centrifugal forces growing more powerful, which is why Mrs Gandhi talks often of unity and invokes the dread image of "the foreign hand", like a scolding mother telling her children the bogeyman will get them if they don't behave.

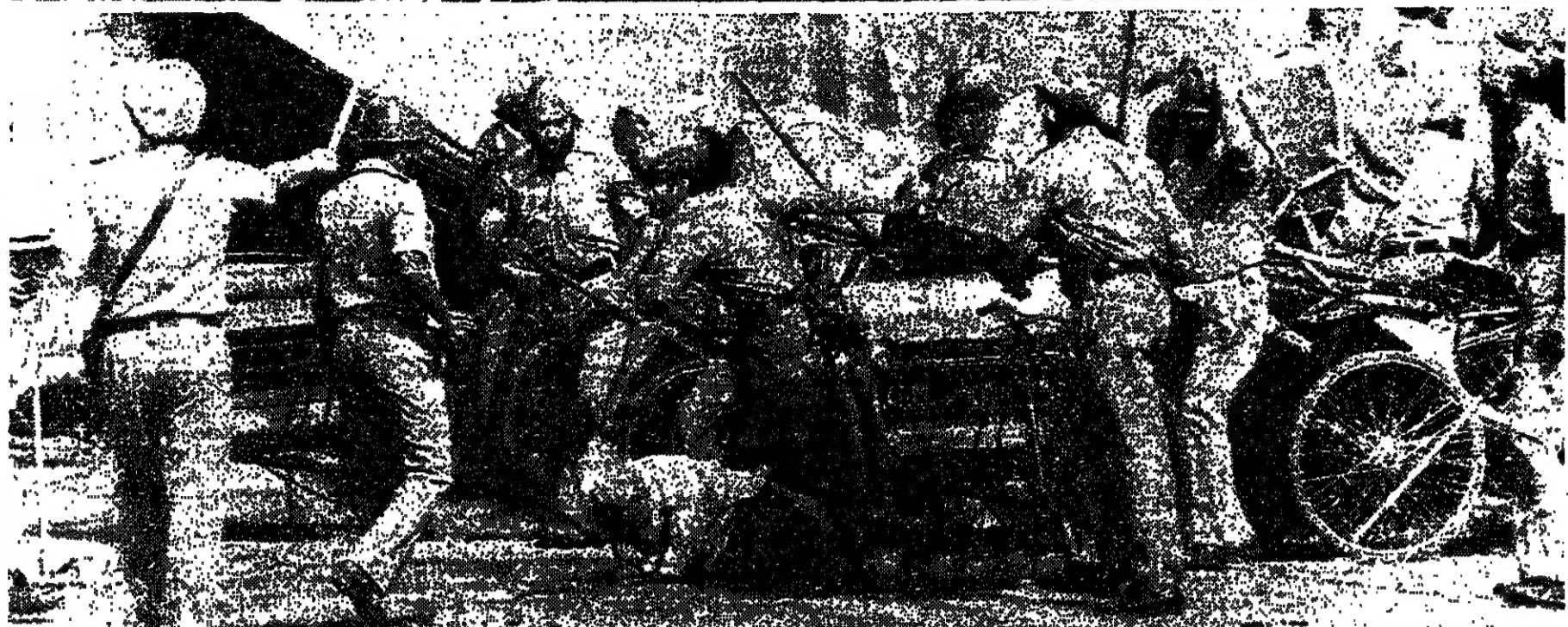
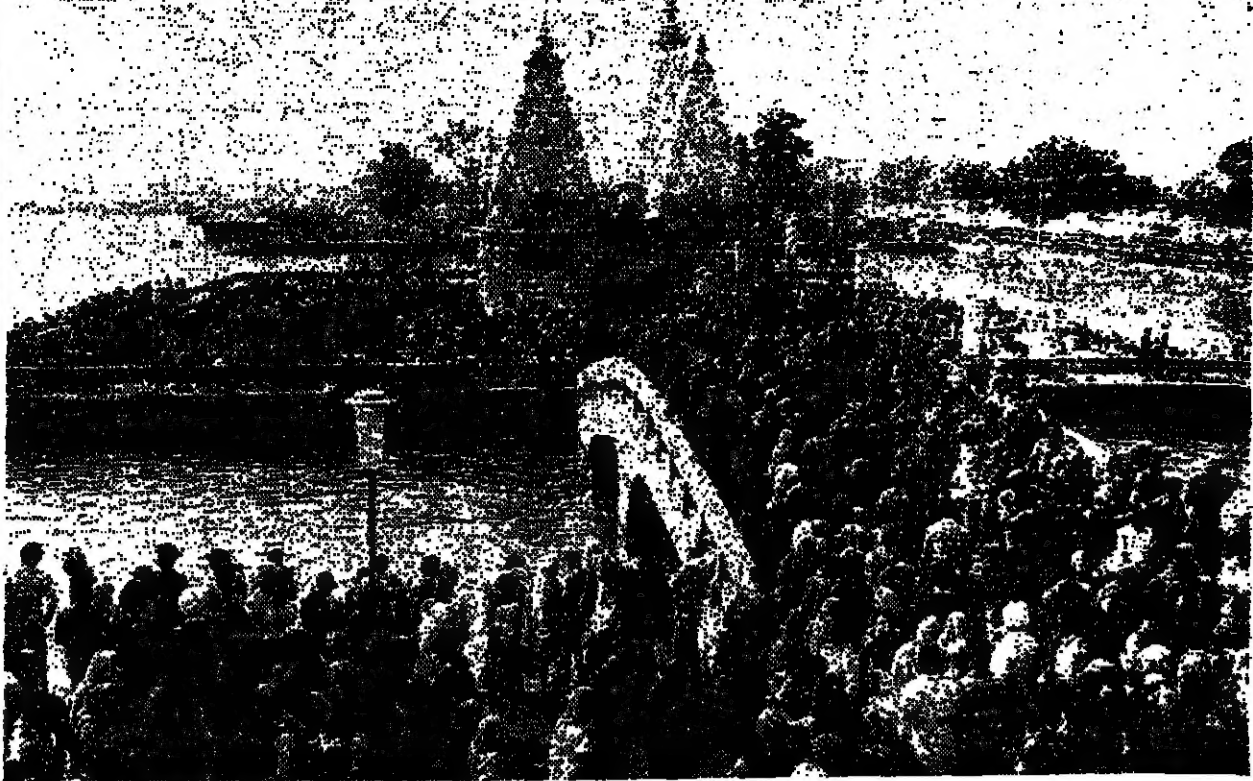


Fragmentation, however, seems unlikely. There is a broad devotion to the idea of the mighty Indian union and its democratic form, and even if Mrs Gandhi's centre cannot hold the union is unlikely to fall apart.

Local troubles are self-sealing rather than infectious. The crises of Assam and Punjab, for example, are contained, and remote from the majority of people in a vast land. The dismal experience of the emergency left Indians more politically aware and convinced of democracy's value. India is also fortunate in having an army free of political ambition.

The papers reveal a country of continuous clamour, of striking imbalances and contradictions. Westerners sometimes romanticize Indian rhythms and values, but Indians themselves are more practical and honest and recognize that theirs can be a cruel and appallingly unjust society. They are their own fiercest critics, railing against their apartheid, repression, feudalism, slavery, jails filled with rotting forgotten prisoners and the terrible pressures of a rapidly growing population on hard-pressed land and resources. It is almost unnecessary to mention something as ingrained and vile as corruption.

There is not much social conscience, and one is struck by a certain heartlessness and selfishness. Life here can be a scramble and a jungle. People



Indian images: top left, Mrs Gandhi; top right, Kurukshetra, where 1½m gathered for a total solar eclipse; above, a battle between Sikhs and police in the Punjab

don't wait, they shove. When the firemen arrived at some burning shops near my home, the shopkeepers competed with bribes to have hoses turned on their shops first. I have seen people attacked by police *lathis* while onlookers hooted with mirth.

For all the corrosives and contradictions, there are great strengths and stabilizers in Indian society. There are aspects of caste which are abhorrent to institutionalized cruelty and discrimination. But caste, like religion and the emphasis on family, clan and hierarchy, is part of India's backbone.

In his caste a man may find identity, companionship, wife, job, political allegiance, prejudices and code for living. It is his shield in an unequal world.

So, too, is his family, for Indians live in close family groups ruled by respected patriarchs. It is the family that provides the welfare, that even does much of the nursing in hospital. Nepotism is duty rather than sin.

Most marriages are arranged by parents and most children like it that way. Marriage and family are too important to be threatened by the uncertainties of love, choice and youth. The marriage advertisements in the weekend newspapers provide a remarkable insight, dealing as they do with practical matters like income, height and peculiarities of prospective brides and grooms. "Bride wanted for

handsome boy. Has weak eyes but owns posh house." "Bride for Sikh, no turban, but keeps beard neatly trimmed." "Groom for 158 centimetre aristocratic wheatish-complexion girl with touch of whiteness near nails of hands and feet, but on no other place of body. Father top bank executive..."



The extended family has its tensions, but compensations, too. Divorce is rare, partly because expectations

of bliss are lower than in the west, because society is male-dominated and because, with family honour, harmony and property at stake, there is greater support at times of marital friction. But things do go wrong and disgruntled parents sometimes harass their daughters-in-law, and may even set fire to them.

Widows can have a hard time because they are thought to bring bad luck. Superstition is important and cannot be overlooked. Astrology is taken seriously and not much of importance happens in India without the starmongers getting in on the act.

The intertwining of caste, religion and astrology underpin the acceptance of, and submission to, one's earthly lot, and hold the carrot of hope for improvement in the next life. The

forces of caste and religion are part of the mechanism keeping the lower orders supine, which is one reason why India is unyielding granite for revolutionaries.

Indians love to talk about India and confess they find it baffling themselves. The paradoxes are abundant but have to be confronted, like the poverty, indifference and squalor and the grotesque displays of wealth at weddings. The well-off have a horror of poverty: its proximity encourages them to strengthen their walls of financial security. There is a western idea that India is mystic. In reality it is emphatically materialistic.

Its conflicts and contradictions arise not only from the heterogeneity of its peoples - myriad cultures, 15 official languages - but also from the inevitably uneven nature of its development. It occupies both the twentieth century and the Middle Ages. It has research institutes both for space rockets and for bullock carts.

But then India is a land where the western mind, at least, has to adjust to amazement. Bandit chiefs surrender to Government ministers at public ceremonies, the equivalent of a Cockney robber giving up his sawn-off to Mr. Whitelaw at Wembley Stadium.

Indians are justly proud of their country and of its achievements since independence, although some of these are threatened by the problem of

population growth, which has not been seriously addressed and casts a deep shadow. They are touchy about criticism and sometimes rub western fur the wrong way by seeming complacent about the cruelties of their country, and for being ready to hurl stones from their crystal houses. But in these things, as in clerical inefficiency, Micawberism and temporizing, they are merely like most other people.

India offers insults to the senses and sensibilities, and provides profound pleasures for them, too. It makes its daily impact on eyes, nose, ears and stomach. There is heat and dust; there are also mangoes and cool rain.

To be in India is to experience a fortunate adventure, an opportunity to witness a massive struggle for improvement and a dramatic experiment in mass democracy, to observe advances as well as India's shrinking illusions. There has been no dull day, and India has left its vivid imprints.

One day there were insects crawling in the breakfast cereal and I asked the cook to throw it away, along with the packet. In a land where there is little waste, he was scandalized.

"I used to work at British High Commission," he said, "and always the cornflakes are having insects. So we take them onto roof, spread them on sheet and when the sun is hot the insects run away. Then we give cornflakes to the sahibs."

Singer and poet Gil Scott-Heron is an incisive spokesman for black America.

Satire in search of a dream

Few visitors to Washington DC overlook the irony of black slums stretching back for miles behind the White House. The contrast makes the town a particularly appropriate home for America's leading black satirist and propagandist, Gil Scott-Heron, who is currently performing a series of three concerts at the Commonwealth Institute in London.

His scathing attacks on the American Establishment, half-sung and half-spoken, are backed by a fusion of black and Hispanic musical styles. The power of his vitriol and the infectiousness of his music have won him as many white fans as black.

Politically, Scott-Heron describes himself as a member of the Common Sense Party. Joining any organized group, he suspects, "tends to alienate you from the people you're trying to inform. And I'm an educator, not an organizer."

His manifesto is most tellingly delivered in a song called "B-Movie," written 10 days after Ronald Reagan's inauguration, a witheringly contemptuous but often hilarious look at the system which allowed the Actor-President to be elected by 26 per cent of the registered voters.

Scott-Heron was born in Chicago in 1949, his father a former professional soccer player from Jamaica. His first 13 years were spent with his grandmother in Jackson, Tennessee, where he learnt the blues, his central musical influence. When he moved to New York it was to live in the Puerto Rican district with his mother, a librarian. There he imbibed both urban poverty and street-corner salsa music. Sketching his lanky, languid frame, he explains that this experience "is what made me

the tallest Puerto Rican blues singer in the world".

Scott-Heron interrupted his undergraduate studies (at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania) to publish two novels - *The Future* when he was 19, and then *The Nigger Story*. It was during this period, back in

Manhattan in the late 1960s, that he began to combine the old traditions of New York - jazz and poetry - with newer musical and verbal forms.

After completing his BA, Scott-Heron took a Masters degree in American literature at Johns Hopkins University,

bringing him to Washington, where he still lives with his wife and daughter. As his performing career blossomed in the mid-1970s he maintained a post-teaching creative writing at the University of the District of Columbia.

He attributes the failure of the black radical movement in the United States to the attempts of talented organizers, particularly the leaders of the Black Panthers, to become educators and leaders too. Huey Newton and Bobby Seale were not philosophers. Their basic premise was self-defence. But when people started to ask them for a philosophy, they reached for that dialectic and this abstract. It confused more than solidified what their principles were. In America, you don't have to justify self-defence. The principle is simply 'I ain't gonna let these people walk over me any more'.

Despite his reputation and his growing success, Scott-Heron has his critics, characterized by one reviewer who, perhaps unkindly, compared him to "a youth leader laying down the right line". He replies that he was the originator of many of those "right lines".

"We did a song about nuclear power six years before Three Mile Island," he says. "We did an anti-drug song, 'Angel Dust', at a time when other American groups were still pushing drugs on kids. We did a song called 'H2Ogate' 18 months before Nixon resigned. We did 'Johannesburg' before Soweto."

But Scott-Heron's satire - "my main tool" - defies easy ideological categorization. For, as he points out, "if music is universal, so is laughter".

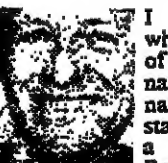
Nick Rosen



Scott-Heron: "I'm an educator, not an organizer"

Mixed doubles in the name game

Moreover... Miles Kingston



I don't know who is in charge of making up the names for international tennis stars, but he does a grand job. Reading the results of the Portuguese Open on Monday was a sheer pleasure, what with Mats Wilander beating Libor Pimek to get to the final, and Yannick Noah beating Jose Higueras. Even better was the men's doubles final, between Carlos Kirmayr and Cassio Motta, and Pavel Slozil and Ferdi Taygan. Kirmayr and Cassio Motta have the overtones of a couple of cocktails, with Pavel Slozil reminding me more of an East European plum liqueur, but on the whole these are genuine original names, and their inventor is to be congratulated.

But then he has been around a long time, assuming he was also responsible for Wojtek Fibak and Vijay Amritraj, Vitas Gerulaitis and Guillermo Vilas, Jose-Luis Clerc and Ilie Nastase - and was it he or his father who invented the name which first attracted my attention to tennis, Jaroslav Drobný? Only in the English-speaking field has he occasionally been banal, with Stan Smith, Jimmy Connors and Arthur Ashe, though even there he has tried hard, with names such as Roscoe Tanner. And his run of luck in the 1960s with macho Australian names was impressive: Ken Rosewall, Lew Hoad, Rod Laver, Tony Roche. Spot on.

Tennis stands supreme as a provider of names, rivalled only by classical conducting. (Otto Klemperer, Antal Dorati, Geza Anda, Carlo Maria Giulini, Simon Rattle, Zubin Mehta - they could all be fine tennis players, with Radu Lupu a dead cert for the men's doubles.) Motor racing is the only one which ever comes near it, with

its curious penchant for mixed nationalities: Emerson Fittipaldi and Carlos Reutemann, for instance.

British soccer, by contrast, is pathetic when it comes to the provision of names, with the plethora of Garys and Kennys, Trevors and Bobbys, Robsons, Nicholases, Francis, Neals, Wilsons, Moores - can we really do no better than this? I sometimes suspect that footballers are allowed to retain their real names, despite the occasional flash of a Luther Blissett or Simon Stainrod, which shows that the old good invention is getting through.

It is only a short step from here to pointing out that British tennis suffers from the same desperate lack of creativity. Does British tennis not avail itself of the service that provides names for everyone else? That is the only explanation I can think of for the presence in the past of Mark Cox, Roger Taylor, John Lloyd and Sue Barker, and in the present of no one in particular. When have the British ever produced a name like Evonne Goolegong or Martina Navratilova? No wonder Wimbledon cannot produce a British winner. It isn't the coaching at fault. It's the names.

With this in mind, Moreover Enterprises intend to sponsor a summer camp for future British tennis stars. Anyone can apply, as long as they have a match-winning name. Already we have one or two talented youngsters coming through, such as Bentwood Tarquin, Jerome Barrington-Oyster, Kalp Chinsister, Wilson Slazboys and Fletcher Henderson.

On the girls' side, we have already enrolled Kim Burling-

championships, and I am delighted to see that she gives pride of place to the champion British girl, Shelley Walpole. Shelley Walpole! There's a name to beat the world with. I wish I had made it up myself.

Next week in SPECTRUM:

Two extracts from Robert Fisk's *In Time of War* reveal Churchill's plan for Irish unity and Hitler's strategy for the invasion of Ireland

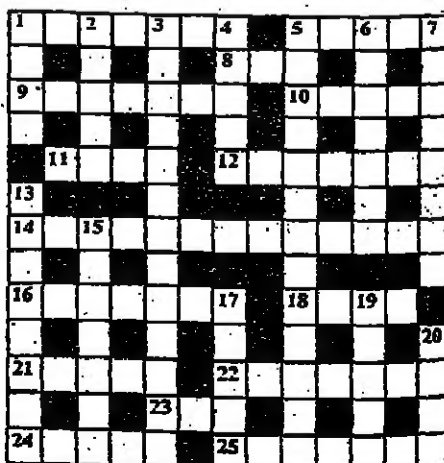
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 39)

ACROSS

- 1 Arouser (7)
- 5 Mous (5)
- 8 Needle hole (3)
- 9 Sugar (7)
- 12 Marketplace (5)
- 11 Pierce (4)
- 13 Made of clay (7)
- 14 Introduces wrongly (13)
- 16 Cornical scar (7)
- 18 Sway (4)
- 21 Witch's oath (5)
- 22 Nasty party (7)
- 23 Down wind (3)
- 24 This day (5)
- 25 Shreds (7)

DOWN

- 1 Border (4)
- 2 Tribunal (5)
- 3 Awkwardly (13)
- 4 Manorial steward (5)
- 5 Car seat attachment (4, 9)



SOLUTION TO No 38

ACROSS: 1 Poetium 5 Poetry 8 Ago 9 Heaven 10 Strict 11 Goat 12 Gorgeous 13 Terror 15 Cavity 17 Ghanaian 20 Neat 22 Rustic 23 Sought 24 Ut 25 Stayer 26 Afford
DOWN: 2 Odcon 3 Inviter 4 Manager 5 Poser 6 Eerie 7 Reconn 14 Exhaust 15 Canasta 16 Venture 18 Netty 19 Incur 21 Abhor
(Solution to No 39 on Monday) The dictionary recommended is the New Collins Concise

FRIDAY PAGE

The Boss behind Honeybunch

In the bullet-proof parsonage where Eileen Paisley helps to pen her husband's fighting words, new red roses and old love letters keep romance alive

She calls him Honeybunch or My Sunshine and he calls her The Boss. Even after 26 years of marriage they can hardly bear to be parted and will telephone each other on the slightest excuse from the other side of the world; or he will send a dozen red roses. They are as much in love as when they were eager young minister and church typist snatching moments alone in a draughty manse.

They live in a tree-lined Belfast suburb in an imposing house with an armed police checkpoint in the drive and 30ft rocket screens at the bottom of a garden guarded by a fierce concrete gnome.

They are, of course, the Rev Ian Paisley and his remarkable wife Eileen, who opened the back door to me after a few minutes careful observation through one-way security glass. All doors are reinforced with a thick layer of bullet-proof armour.

A smile spread as she recalled her first meeting with her husband 33 years ago: "I was only 17 and right from the start Ian was the most romantic of men. For him it was love at first sight and he proposed on our third date."

After proposing Mr Paisley was kept waiting on his knees, speechless for perhaps the only time in his life: "I was so surprised I just sat there for a minute or two in silence. He had really swept me off my feet. I don't know what I saw in him, it was just there."

He always sent me flowers and love letters which I still have. In the letters he wrote not much poetry, not rhyming poetry, but some very nice things. In the large comfortable sitting room with its piano, electric organ and family Bible, pictures of the couple smile down from the walls.

"Ian was so sure we should get married, everything was always so clear to him. He had dates before but people usually date around at first. When he was away a lot on missions I never went out with anyone else like the other girls, though I doubt if any of the boys would have risked going out with Ian."

"Our love has really grown from that time and Ian is one of the most sensitive of men. It would be not going too far to say we are inseparable. We have a great marriage—and to think I imagined I was going to be just a country clergyman's wife."

Instead she has been shot at, blown up and even stoned. "When I was a Belfast City councillor I went to open some new council houses and there was a republican demonstration. It was crazy, I had just voted against their rents going up, but they were so angry that the security men said we should sneak out the back way. Not in my city, I said. We faced them and I was hit five times and came home with bruises. It was like something from the Bible."

She has been caught in cross-fire while driving home after a meeting and has seen the sickening aftermath of many bombs. "After one particular bomb I could not hear for a week."

"They have said if they cannot get my husband they will get me, especially after Maire Drumm, the IRA leader, was killed. But I believe we are mortal until God's work is done and obviously he has more for us to do. They just missed Ian once, and I do worry when he goes out."

"But it's no use running to the bank every morning to see if your money is still there. I put myself and my family in God's hands. If I lost them all I would still think it part of His plan." She now works so closely with her husband in his roles as MP for North Antrim, church leader and head of the Democratic Unionist Party, that she could continue if anything happened to him. It is all very honeyed as one sinks into the large family sofa, but appearances can be deceptive and I started to have the same uneasy feeling as in my dentist's well-appointed waiting room. Whatever Eileen Paisley says about her Honeybunch, his violent words have been the overture to each new cycle of the present troubles, words which this mild-mannered Belfast matron helps to write.

The very name Paisley can inspire loathing from even the most moderate. "He is a rabble rouser," Lord Soper told his fellow peers after a Paisley rally. "He has a raucous approach and a dogmatic gesture. He is duping a lot of simple people." The Methodist leader, with uncharacteristic venom, described Paisley's academic award from the Bob Jones University of South Carolina as "a self-inflicted doctored."

And the pictures of Protestants grimly drilling on windy hillides as

part of the MP's sinister Third Force, each with a current firearms certificate, do not exactly smack of Christian charity. But to Eileen Paisley her husband can do no wrong. She is as loyal as Caesar's wife, and far more able.

She smiles when I tell her a fellow Protestant described her relationship with Ian as Duty and The Beast. "He would laugh at that one, he has a great sense of humour. But quite honestly the best way I can serve Ulster at the moment is by helping him and having been a councillor I can take a lot of weight off his shoulders." She works in his Stormont office on everything from drafting speeches to visiting the bereaved.

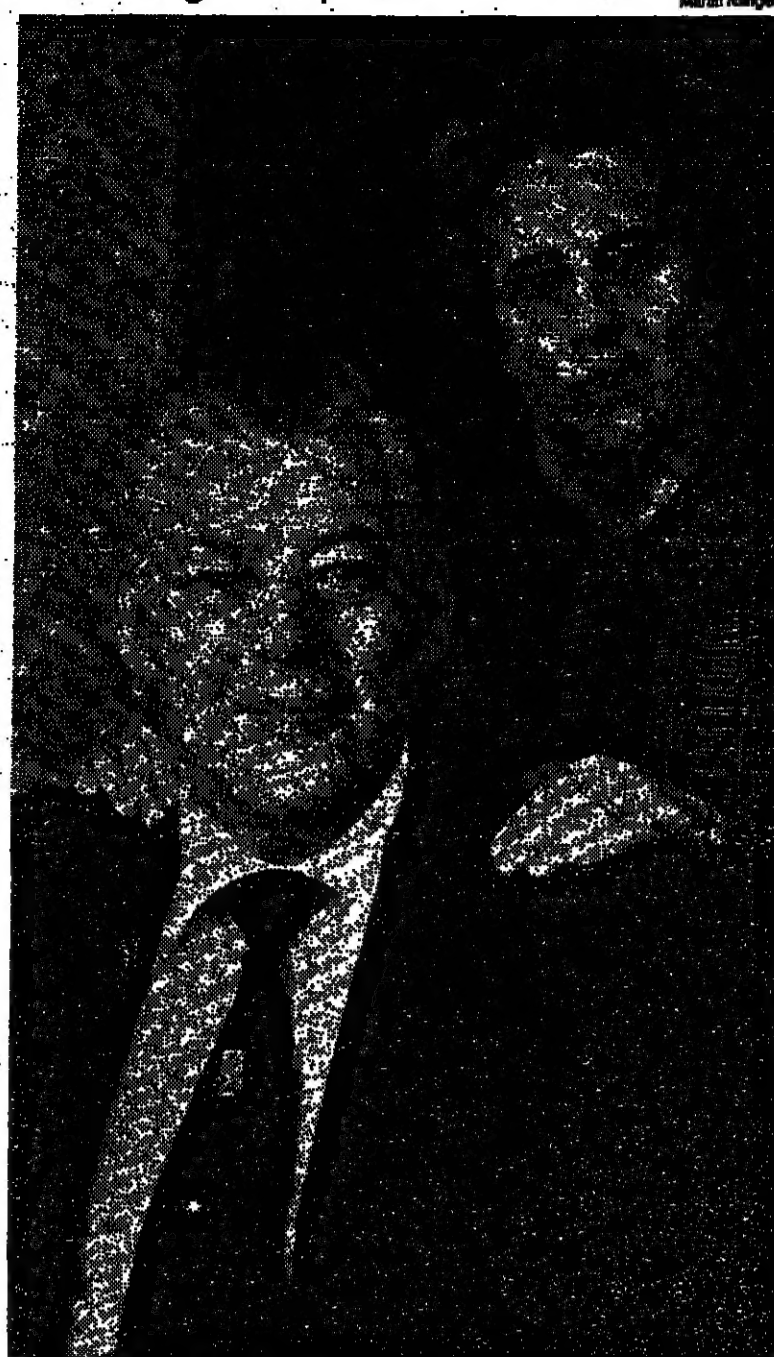
Eileen recently took her husband's place in an anti-IRA "truth crusade" to America when he was refused entry. A grocer's daughter, and educated at a formidable Belfast institution called Miss Elliott's, she took the tour in her stride.

The couple begin and end every day praying out loud and Eileen talks to God while driving the car, or dusting: "People think God is an austere man with a big whip to keep us down. But he is the God of love, or he would not have sent His son to die for us. If someone said to me 'Let one of your sons die for the sins of Ulster' I would not do it."

They have five children, Sharon, 25, Rhonda, 23, who is studying art in America, Cherith, 17, and twins Kyle and Ian, 16. "We are not strict and this place is open house to their boyfriends and girlfriends. I would be disappointed if one of them suddenly joined the Communist Party but it would be no use saying no."

There was little evidence of Marxist leanings in the TV room. Ian was reading a devotional book while Kyle and Cherith watched a Cliff Richard film. "Their father likes cowboys best and we tape them for him; his favourite is True Grit with John Wayne. He loves to be home," The Paisleys neither smoke nor drink alcohol.

There political and religious crusades around the world are reflected in a magic collection of bric-a-brac from four continents. Wooden crocodiles bark in the fire place, in the hall a taxidermied skin from Australia, jewelled elephants from India bound across bazaar



Eileen Paisley at home with the Bark of Belfast

tables and on the wall is a collection of spoons from just about everywhere. There is a Victorian exuberance about the house which transcends taste: "Ian has phoned me from all of those places," adds Eileen, proudly.

Indeed, he rang at that moment from London to inquire about the health of his 13-year-old Afghan boyhood friend, who is at the vet's.

"My husband has been called a fanatic because he feels the strength of what he is saying. He has a big thunderous voice and it must be

loud; it would not work if it were soft," she says.

His strength of oratory comes in part from trusting in God but also from the honey and cider vinegar Eileen makes him take every morning, in case his throat gets dry. "Where would Ulster's guard dog be without his bark?" quipped a Belfast cabbie. No doubt he would manage somehow, but he would be completely adrift without the quiet help of Eileen Emily Paisley.

Paul Pickering

MEDICAL BRIEFING

When jet lag has no chance



TWA's plan to run a daily round-trip service to New York for business men, announced last week, makes good medical sense even if the commercial viability remains to be seen.

Dr Frank Preston, director of British Airways Medical Services, reminds us that the health advantages of a short stop-over have been a selling point for Concorde since BA first used it for their own there and back in a day service six years ago.

During such a short visit, he says, the body just does not have time to come under the influence of the new time zone. The visitor stays at British time and is capable of maintaining peak performance in business meetings.

Decide to stay over, however, and Dr Preston recommends a more cautious approach. It is essential, he says, for anyone attending an important meeting to give him or herself one or two days before starting work. The best course: arrange to arrive in the evening local time, refuse all offers of hospitality and go to bed with a mild sleeping tablet.

Just a thought

Since the outbreak of the mysterious disease which is still gripping the Israeli occupied West Bank, doctors have been puzzling over two different questions.

What caused the outbreak in the first case, and why has it spread so quickly and affected so many people? Political tension has added to their difficulties. Whether the underlying cause can be traced to bottles found at the school where the first girls were taken ill remains to be seen.

One hypothesis put forward to explain the rapid spread of the illness is "mass hysteria", which can be understood if you think in terms of ideas which affect behaviour being transmitted from person to person.

Mass hysteria in the twentieth century has tended to involve groups of young women at schoolgirls, with food poisoning as a common suggested cause. An example of the difficulty of diagnosing mass hysteria followed an outbreak of an unusual feverish illness at the Royal Free Hospital in London in 1970. Nurses were affected and some doctors thought it must be an infection

because a number of patients had swollen lymph glands, though an infectious agent was never isolated. Others decided it must have a psychological origin, even though young children who would be normally unlikely to mimic symptoms were also affected. Most likely, it was a mixture of the two.

Wheezy ease

Instead of viewing the summer with grim anticipation, hayfever sufferers can now look forward to relief from their symptoms without being condemned to a season under sedation.

More than two and a half million people in Britain get wheezy and itchy and develop a runny nose in spring and summer because they are allergic to pollens in the air. When the pollens are inhaled the sufferers' bodies release abnormally high levels of histamine, and this chemical causes the symptoms.

Until recently those who wanted to drive, needed to work heavy machinery or simply had to be alert for business or exams were forced to suffer because the only drugs available to combat the histamine also caused drowsiness.

Now, however, two antihistamines which cannot get into the brain, and hence are without sedative side effects have been developed.

The drugs, Triludan from Merrell Pharmaceuticals and Hismanal from Janssen Pharmaceuticals, are available on prescription from a doctor. Triludan, in tablet form for adults and children over six, was launched last year. From this month a suspension of the drug for youngsters who find that easier to take is also available. Hismanal, marketed just in time for this year's hayfever season, can be prescribed only for adults and children over 12.

Bristol fashion

Breast-feeding mothers who come across the latest device to help them artificially express their milk can be assured that it was designed with their interests at heart despite its tongue in cheek name.

American-born designer William Sponsel, who is a medical student at Bristol University, has called his invention the Bristol Breast Pump. He says he wanted to acknowledge all the help he and his family have received from staff at Bristol. "I just thought it was appropriate that everyone should share in it if it caught on."

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

Sleeping pills: the doses and the dangers

A young death that broke no law

Deydai Jones

On January 31, the day that her mother was due back from a fortnight's holiday, seventeen year old Louise put the finishing stitches in a tapestry cushion cover which was to be a welcome home present and made sure that part of a coffee cake she had baked was set aside for the returning traveller. Some time too during that day she swallowed the Normison capsules that killed her.

Her mother, Theo, may never know the name of the doctor who prescribed these pills. It's probable that Louise found her family doctor off duty, so it could have been any GP in Central London who, faced with a schoolgirl claiming rather frantically that she could not get a good night's sleep, reached for a prescription pad without paying much attention.

At the inquest, the coroner, Dr Paul Knapman, recording a verdict of misadventure, thought that Louise had probably taken a small overdose to feign illness and so avoid going to school. Yet although the pathologist, Professor Keith Simpson, suggested that Normison was an unusual drug to prescribe for such a young girl, the coroner decided not to pursue the case further.

Professor Simpson agreed that it seemed unfair to pin the offence on any one doctor. He acknowledged that doctors tend to prescribe doses that are much too large, that such a highly-strung girl should perhaps not have been given any kind of drug but that such things are "wrong but not unlawful".

As things stand, anyone over sixteen can walk into any doctor's surgery and walk out again with a prescription with no questions asked, no tests taken.

Louise's family would very much like to identify the doctor,



Louise: anguished behind a carefree smile

if only to prevent such a tragic accident happening to someone else's daughter, but the pill bottle, through which both pharmacist and doctor could be traced has somehow vanished between hospital and laboratory and courtroom and Theo's two letters to the coroner pleading for the return of the bottle have so far remained unanswered.

In the normal way of things Louise would not have fitted Professor Simpson's description "highly-strung" but the weeks before her death were not in the normal way of things. She was in the throes of intense revision for her forthcoming A-level examinations in History and Biology, a time, according to her friends at St Paul's Girls' School, when sound judgment is suspended.

"It could have been any one of us," one school friend told Louise's mother. "You reach a stage when the world revolves around the history essay you've failed to deliver."

This group of girls, like Louise, had given up serious

boyfriends and any kind of a social life and the desperate concentration on exams may have added to the panicky atmosphere. Yet photographs, like the one on this page, taken just a few weeks before Louise died, show a beautiful, laughing girl who is very much her normal, extrovert self.

Louise's schoolfriends shared her problem of sleeping badly and their condition was summed up by St Paul's High Mistress, Heather Briggs, who told Louise's mother: "Adolescence is a disease."

Indeed, the lack of sleep and consequent nervousness may have made Louise feel genuinely ill. Theo said: "We're a very close family, anyone could tell you that. We all love, one another, we never have rows. But because Louise was getting a bit snappy about her homework, I thought it would be more fun for her to be with Elizabeth, her older sister, while I was on holiday."

Twenty-three year old Elizabeth, a former head girl of St

Paul's, moved back home to stay with Louise and was firm but sympathetic towards her youngest sister, who seemed to take rather a lot of time off school, saying that she felt sick.

After three continuous days of absence, Elizabeth advised Louise to see a doctor but not to get any pills. Like her mother, Elizabeth prefers natural remedies and the family medicine chest rarely has so much as a bottle of aspirin on its shelves. It was then that Louise, finding her own doctor unavailable, went elsewhere and returned with the Normison. Elizabeth thinks that she kept quiet about this "because she probably thought I'd be cross".

The following Monday, Louise pleaded sickness again and Elizabeth pointed out that their mother, on her return that evening, would be upset by this skiving. But Louise rang the school, explained that she was not well and went back to bed. Before shutting her bedroom door, she told Catherine, the daily help, that she was very tired and wanted to sleep in.

When her body was discovered early that evening, she was rushed to St Stephen's Hospital in the Fulham Road, where a doctor, on seeing there was nothing to be done, said: "These seventeen year olds; it's happening all the time."

Theo thinks that the most likely thing is that Louise was desperate for a good sleep. "She was a very spontaneous girl and didn't think things through. It's so easy at that age to lose a proper sense of judgment. She behaved thoughtlessly, foolishly, impetuously and really very, very stupidly but she had this weapon - a potentially lethal drug - which she didn't understand."

Penny Perrick

Friendly mistletoe

From E. C. L. Butler, 30 Mayfair, Post Hill, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4NQ. In the letter (Talkback, March 26) Drs Anderson and Philipson quote from your Modern Times column of March 24 "mistletoe is good for headaches". They point out that "mistletoe contains at least four classes of particularly nasty compounds". It is generally recognised that the berries from this plant are not to be used so one assumes that the writers were referring to the leaves.

Jean Palaiseul, a French naturalist writing in *Grandmother's Secrets*, a recent Pelican book, says that mistletoe was in olden days used medicinally as the standard antispasmodic and was particularly recommended for persons suffering from high blood pressure. He adds that modern research has shown that it is an excellent natural remedy for arteriosclerosis and high blood pressure because of its action on the vaso-motor nervous system and that it is therefore included in various patent medicines; also that it features in a method of cancer treatment known as "viscum therapy" which originated in Switzerland. A German publication states that mistletoe should be gathered between October and December or in March or April and agrees generally with M Palaiseul.

It would be interesting to have further comments from those with a scientific knowledge of the subject.

THE TIMES Saturday

THE INDISPENSIBLE WEEKEND GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Each week, The Times gives you the best selection of how to enjoy yourself. In tomorrow's edition:



● How to switch on to the Royal Family in your living room



● Real ale: Has the great beer revolution gone flat?



Plus

How to make your garden grow; Portuguese wines; the new Wisden for cricket fans; Family Life on reptiles and spiders; Critics' choice of the best in films, theatre, galleries, classical music, rock and jazz, dance, opera and films on TV; bridge; chess and the top guide to The Week Ahead in arts and entertainment

● Travel: The myth and magic of Kos; and how to serve up a tennis holiday with Bjorn Borg



● Theatre: Back to school with Angela Brazil's childhood classic

● Values: How to extend your lifestyle with a Victorian conservatory

TALKBACK

The bright side

From Mrs Sheila Utting, 21 Curzon Place, Epsom, Surrey, Middlesex HA5 2PQ. With reference to Mrs Doreen Darby's letter (Talkback, April 8) may I offer advice to the millions of readers who suffer from distressing but not life-threatening complaints.

I spend four days each week incapacitated by migraine and it is easy to lie in the dark swamped by self pity. The way to tolerate the kind of life imposed by my own problem is to concentrate on the quality of the three days in which I am well.

To focus on the days, hours, even minutes when free from pain or suffering can give a more positive and beneficial outlook. Relaxation whilst in an attack is a positive action - it is difficult to achieve but the attempt itself is worthwhile for success brings a sense of achievement.

I find inspiration and comfort in the memory of the late Sir Barnes Wallis who, speaking on radio, said that one third of his life had been given up to migraine - how much he achieved in the remaining two thirds.

Merely we have to be strengthened by overcoming the problems caused by adversity. Maybe we can be the ones who will inspire others.

THE TIMES DIARY

Lower the boom

Concorde, the superjet, is going into the package holiday business. Only on Wednesday night the plane started in BBC 2's QED, which breathlessly followed a first-class supersonic flight to New York, but now Thomson Holidays has completed a deal with British Airways to use Concorde to carry package holiday tourists to or from Cairo. The package, with one flight by more pedestrian jet, will cost about £900 for 14 days' half-board, and will be a feature of Thomson's Winter Sun brochure to be launched in May.

British Airways itself is using the plane for a two week tour of the United States in August which it is billing as the "ultimate holiday" but for that even the cost is spectacular: £8,000.

Paxton Americana

The Americans are after another bit of our heritage, the Crystal Palace, 47 years after it was burnt to the ground. They want to rebuild it in Dallas. Just as the original palace was used at the Great Exhibition of 1851 to display the miracles of the industrial revolution, the Dallas version is intended to house computers. There will have to be some modifications. Air conditioning will be installed, instead of central heating, and the glass will be darkened to reflect the Texas sun. The American architects have sought advice from the Crystal Palace Foundation, formed four years ago to study the history of the palace, about the technical details of Sir Joseph Paxton's design. The foundation's chairman, Barry McKay, says: "We are amazed and delighted that anyone should want to rebuild it. It is going to cost them forty million dollars."

Costly move

David Pearce, secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, was at a planning appeal yesterday about the future use of the society's own headquarters, a listed and, the staff insist, pretty ancient, building in Great Ormond Street.

The SPAB is moving to a fully restored eighteenth century building in Spitalfields, which is to be opened on May 24 by Tom King, the Environment Secretary. It has put its Bloomsbury property on the market, but Camden council had refused an application for some of the offices to be turned to commercial use. Unless yesterday's planning appeal succeeds, the society fears it will not be able to finance its new headquarters, for which an appeal for funds has already been launched.

Arriving from Vienna at Heathrow Terminal 1, Jan Morris, the travel writer, put 50p into a change machine to make a telephone call. In exchange she got three Maltese and two Irish coins. She used one of the Maltese coins to phone in, and used the others to ring home to Wales.

On the scent

Readers have again fulfilled my faith that they know everything. My story of the Australian underground orchid, first recorded 1982, then thought extinct and now rediscovered by satellite, received several ready explanations. Admittedly a few of you were as puzzled as I was, especially when in the paper the word "extinct" appeared as "exciting". This makes it less easy to complain that in the report I was referring to the year of the orchid's discovery, 1928, had been printed "1982". John May of Steyning tells me the satellite concerned is the American Landsat D, whose data identified the undisturbed bushland where the orchid might be found. The orchid has pale pink, vanilla scented tubular flowers and it is still a mystery how it is pollinated. Dr Richard Warren of Edinburgh supplied the plant's botanical name, *Rhizanthella gardneri*, and the fact that its discovery was reported in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia, 1928. John Ainsworth of Manchester volunteered that there is another underground orchid - but I beg to think people were trying to blind me with science.

Marking time

Somewhere between the crucifixion and the resurrection the electricity failed in Warsaw's Atheneum Theatre and Alec McCowen's epic one-man recital of *The Gospel According to St Mark* was plunged into satanic darkness. McCowen had flown from London for the one-night performance to initiate a series of theatrical and musical events designed to thaw the freeze in Anglo-Polish cultural relations. One can forgive McCowen for wondering whether the Russians cut off the power for sitting a few feet away in the front row was an actor who has made his reputation playing Lenin, to whom he bears a disquieting resemblance.

There is consternation at the Algonquin in New York, where Hamlet II, successor to the hotel cat immortalized in Val Schaffner's book, has been missing for three weeks. Coast-to-coast appeals have been brought from all over the States, but no cat. At first it was thought that Hamlet had gone for a stage career at the nearby Plymouth Theatre, "but they were only casting a kitten", says Andrew Aschapel, the Algonquin's managing director. Another theory is that Hamlet eloped with a she-cat from the New York Yacht Club. If so it will be a platonic affair. Hamlet is neutered.

Animal abuse: the vets' dilemma

by David Coffey

A cascade of dubious concern over animal welfare has in recent years prompted the British Veterinary Association to manufacture more hardware for its war of political intrigue - namely more committees. Committees have examined the export of live animals for slaughter, the battery system and veal calves, with little noticeable effect on the welfare of the animals. Now a subcommittee is to consider laboratory animals; it is a safe prediction that it will do no more than tinker with the tinsel around the package of established practice.

A few years ago the animal welfare committee was conceived, presumably to coordinate the views of the various professional factions and to advise the BVA on welfare matters. This committee was no exception to the rule. Peopled by part-time politicians pushed into office, it has lamentably failed to fire the imagination.

It has, for example, given much tongue to the detrimental effects of arguments in the hands of small boys, while it has studiously ignored the adverse welfare consequences of shotguns manipulated by rather older lads.

The difficulty facing the profession results from its chronic condition - corporate schizophrenia. While it has always claimed to be principally interested in animal welfare it has in fact been subservient to its clients.

As long as there was no conflict between the farmer's expectations and that of the veterinary surgeon - healthy stock kept under traditional systems of management - the professional ethic remained unchal-

lenged. Veterinary surgeons judged the welfare of their patients simply in terms of physical well-being, taking their psychological state for granted. Our understanding of the complexities of the animal mind has in recent years been greatly enhanced by the relatively new science of animal behaviour. This growing awareness has sadly been confounded by the technological revolution which has permitted, indeed encouraged, the intensification of animal management systems, on the farm and in laboratories, which ignore their psychological needs.

Our dilemma as veterinary surgeons is clear. Should we retain our professional status, subservient to the agricultural and pharmaceutical industries whose declared and sole objective is profit, and insure for ourselves a reasonable income? Or should we try to ascertain the limits of abuse to which animals can reasonably be subjected, in order to provide them with adequate welfare standards?

If, as I hope, we opt for the latter, it will be necessary to establish a general concept of animal welfare. While science can make important contributions, happiness, contentment, frustration and pain are important subjective experiences which cannot be objectively identified or quantified. Nevertheless most reasonable people would accept that such feelings probably exist in animals, as they would concede that animals feel hunger and the need for sexual fulfilment.

Some years ago a detailed report of a working party convened by the Very Rev Dr Edward Carpenter, Dean of Westminster, entitled "Animals and Ethics" was presented at a press conference. The compilers included eminent theologians, veterinarians, ethologists, agriculturists and members of the Animal Welfare Movement. While it would be foolish to pretend that this was the definitive concept of animal welfare it was certainly worthy of consideration. The presidents of both the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the BVA haughtily declined to attend.

If the BVA wishes to be taken seriously as a participant in the discussion on animal welfare it has to assume more humility and consider the subject in much greater depth.

The veterinary profession has a fine record of service to animals, however hamstrung it may have been by the need to earn a living. Many members are well aware of, and subscribe to, the need to consider the psychological as well as the physical needs of domesticated animals or those kept in captivity, and they could make a considerable contribution to the general discussion. It will indeed be a shame for the profession as well as for the animals if that knowledge and concern is stifled, shackled and finally submerged by a small group of the profession's politicians whose real objectives and motivation are often obscure.

The author is a veterinary surgeon and former research officer at the Ministry of Agriculture.

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Geraldine Norman on the inside dealing over the Sotheby's bid

Going but not quite gone to Cogan and Swid

Sotheby's have discovered a word to describe the absence of sympathetic understanding that is lacking between themselves and the unlikely named Americans Mr Cogan and Mr Swid, who are trying to buy the whole Sotheby's empire for \$100m.

It is synergy, defined by Webster's as meaning combined action or operation (as of muscles or nerves). Sotheby's say there is a lack of it between themselves and the American bidders.

Nerves, not to mention raw emotion, are showing in both camps as the Americans try to muscle in. Graham Llewellyn, Sotheby's chief executive, has been letting his passion show when speaking to the press in comments such as "we wouldn't recommend the offer at any price" or "I'll blow my brains out if they succeed". Julian Thompson, who was appointed UK chairman last year, and who knows more about Chinese porcelain than almost anyone else in the world, looks white and drained as he makes a superhuman effort to discuss the issue without emotion.

That is the picture in Sotheby's Bond Street headquarters where the serious conversation between small huddles of friends lapses into silence as a stage walk by. Only two spokesmen are officially permitted to communicate with the outside world, one for the management and one for the staff.

About 130 of the expert staff in London have told the Americans, in a letter which seems to stem from very senior levels in the company, that a takeover would cause them "immediately to consider alternative employment". The management pressed this home when they met Cogan and Swid last Sunday, pointing out that experts might resign en masse and set up a new auction operation, collaborate with an existing auctioneer to build the business or leave individually and join rival dealers. So far no attempt seems to have been made to concert a strategy. Indeed one is quickly told of the legal barriers preventing employees forming a steering committee or, indeed, taking any action that might damage the business that employs them.

Half a mile away, in a rented suite in Park St, Marshall Cogan and Stephen Swid are visibly shaken by the freezing reception they have had from Sotheby's board and the ferocity with which the firm is fighting to keep them out.

"He's the smart guy. I'm the good looking one", says Swid, explaining the double act. "It is a matter of 'Marshall and I think...' or 'Stephen and I decided...'". They make it very clear that their bid for Sotheby's is not a matter of one company taking over another but a personal matter of two men who have seen a great international



Graham Llewellyn, Gordon Brunton and Julian Thompson of Sotheby's: no reserve.

business in trouble and want the excitement of putting their own business talents to work to sort it out. "We're winners", they say, pointing to their success with Knoll International, a furniture making group.

This is where the lack of "synergy" comes in. Nobody had ever heard of Cogan and Swid before they announced the acquisition of a 14 per cent stake in Sotheby's last December. They are nice guys from middle America who take their jackets off and roll up their sleeves.

If only they were famous, and better connected, Sotheby's might be able to welcome them as collaborators in building the business. They would then have some "synergy" with the millionaire collectors, jet setters and ruined aristocrats selling off their heirlooms who constitute the clientele.

The language spoken by Cogan and Swid, American business jargon, cannot convey the concerns and approach of Sotheby's directors. Equally, the phraseology of Old Etonian aesthetic commercialism is not translatable into Cogan and Swid.

The two sides have clearly failed

to understand each other from the start - whether purposely or not is unclear - and have each latched on to minor matters as a source of bitter resentment. The first meeting between the two sides took place in December. Sotheby's were represented by Gordon Brunton, the non-executive chairman whose real job is running International Thompson, Graham Llewellyn, Sotheby's chief executive and former head of the London jewel department, John Marion, chairman of Sotheby's American board, and Jesse Wolff, deputy chairman and lawyer in New York.

Sotheby's are particularly angry over a press statement issued by Cogan and Swid. This, Sotheby's bitterly aver, has caused the firm to lose consignments.

In contrast, Cogan and Swid bitterly complain of Sotheby's imposing a total ban in all countries where they operate on anyone concerned with the firm speaking to them. "Sotheby's experts do not accept items for sale without looking at them personally and making an assessment", Cogan and Swid complain. "None of the experts have been allowed to look at us."

Last Sunday Cogan and Swid met Sotheby's main board and sought to explain what a good deal they were offering Sotheby's staff, with special consideration for experts and profit-sharing incentives. They then asked for a private meeting with departmental experts.

As "working experts" they singled out Julian Thompson, John Marion, chairman of the American board, and Peter Wilson, chairman of Sotheby's from 1958 to 1980, the author and architect of its international success. Wilson now lives in the south of France and "helps to find business" from semi-retirement.

The Americans thus pointedly left out Graham Llewellyn, a long-standing expert and executive. The Three "chosen" men successfully urged the addition of Jim Lally, the American expert on Chinese art, to the group.

One gets the impression from Cogan and Swid that this group were painfully aggressive and frank. But Wilson, "behaved like a true gentleman", says Cogan and Swid. Those of us who have watched with awe the ruthless genius for fixing deals - displayed - by Peter Wilson over his 20-year run as chairman, and have fallen delighted victims to his charm, are entitled to ask "What's up?"

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Urgent - put a cross for cockney Kate

union's biggest branch, in the Newcastle Central Office of the Department of Health and Social Security, of 6,000 members, there were only 40 left at the meeting when it finally got to the nominations for the union's national executive.

"The extremist Broad Left", says Mrs Losinska, "rely on our members' apathy to elect them to 'default', and that is precisely what happened at the last 'general election' in the union, when the Broad Left gained control of the NEC by a majority of 34-4; the majority includes three members of the Communist Party and eight supporters of Militant, including the union's present president, Mr Kevin Roddy. (Mr Roddy, who is standing for president again, opposing Kate Losinska herself, does not seek to disguise his political affiliations, saying in his election address that he is a supporter of Militant and that "I have always proudly and openly declared where I stand". This could hardly be said by another member of the Broad Left, Mr Ray Alderson, who is standing for one of the two vice-president posts; in 64 lines of his appeal for election he cannot spare half a dozen words to mention that he is a member of the Communist Party. Nor does the Broad Left's main election leaflet do so - indeed, it carefully avoids mentioning any of the political allegiances of the coalition.)"

The CPSA has always been, in the vital narrow sense, non-political; though many of its campaigns have obviously and inevitably been political in character, it has never, as

a body, supported any particular party. The Broad Left wants affiliation to the Labour Party, which cannot be enacted under the union's present rules; they have therefore proposed that the annual conference (which they can control much more easily than the elections) should change the rules to permit such affiliation: they have already passed a resolution for affiliation to the CPSA support CND or vote Labour; whether even all of these, never mind the others, want the union, for the first time in its history, to be affiliated to such bodies, is another matter.

Anyway, before that interesting question is answered there is a more urgent one. The CPSA elections are now in progress, and some indication of the apathy of the majority can be gained from the fact that only one third of the union's 1,100 branches have so far indicated even that they are definitely going to hold ballot-meetings. In the belief that the majority of the members want leaders who will continue to strive for better pay, conditions and union electoral procedures while rejecting political extremism, and the hope that they can be induced to go to their branch meetings and vote for such leaders, I now print the list put forward by the National Moderate Group in the Civil and Public Services Association. (The numbers before the names on the list for National Executive Committee are those that will be found on the ballot papers.)

For President (one vote): Losinska, Mrs K. M. For Vice-President

(two votes): Chambers, Mrs M.; Pemberton, F. For National Executive Committee (twenty-six votes):

2. Scott-Anderson, 50. Mylward, son, Mrs S.
12. Billoun, J. 51. Newall, A.
16. Bruce, J. 54. Parry, Mrs S.
17. Butcher, J. 56. Pemberton, F.
18. Butterworth, 57. Poyntz, Mrs G.
23. Carr, A. 58. Price, Mrs J.
23. Chambers, 58. Price, Mrs J.
Mrs M. 61. Richards, K.
28. Elliott, C. H. 66. Simmonds, A.
35. Hepple, Mrs A. 69. Thomas, P.
36. Hickman, 71. Wilde, Mrs J.
Miss M. 72. Winkworth, A.
40. James, Mrs J. P.
Mrs M. 73. Womersley, M.
45. Losinska, Mrs P.
Mrs K. 75. Wright, M.
49. Milnes, D. K. D.

Would members who wish to vote for the moderate slate please note that they should vote for Mrs Losinska for president and Mrs Chambers and Mr Pemberton for vice-president, but also for all three for the national executive, as a candidate defeated for senior office can still be elected onto the NEC.

Spitting into the wind is a thankless task; the best that can be hoped for from the exercise is an eye of spittle. Nevertheless, spit I must. To cast a vote in an important election which is part of our democratic process does not seem to me to rank with the Labour Hercules, even if the voter cannot do it sitting at home with his feet up but must go to a hall and be bored into insensibility for a couple of hours before he gets a chance to mark his card. Whether the members of the CPSA can be induced - by the hard work of Mrs Losinska and her allies or by my exhortation - to exercise their democratic right in their union's election I do not know. What I do know is that if enough of us fail to vote in enough elections we shall one day find that we no longer have any elections to vote in, and if the CPSA moderates, and my advocacy of their cause, are not sufficient to persuade the majority to turn out and vote, perhaps that

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David Watt

Putting Carter in perspective

"Come back Jimmy Carter. All - or at any rate nearly all - is forgiven." The fact that it has taken the chancelleries of Europe more than two years to set up this cry, in spite of the utter misery and dejection with which they contemplate the attitudes and accomplishments of Mr Reagan, may be considered some kind of measure of their disenchantment with the Carter regime at the end of its term. Nevertheless I have noticed a distinct softening of attitudes to the Carter record in recent months, and now along comes Carter's National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, to give another boost to the rehabilitation with his own account of what happened to American foreign policy between 1976 and 1980.

It is an unusually fair and honest book, one of the best of its kind to be published in recent years, and it makes a good case for Carter. The prize exhibits are naturally the Camp David agreements, the Panama Canal treaties, the final normalisation of relations with China and the SALT II treaty which, though never ratified, has at least been observed by both sides.

Brzezinski also claims credit for some developments which will be less universally acclaimed but which can at least be said to meet the Reaganite charge that Carter was "soft on Communism" - economic sanctions against the Soviet Union after Afghanistan, the rejection of the American military presence into the Persian Gulf, the formation of the rapid deployment force and the reinvigoration of NATO.

For liberals he has not so much to show, but he offers Carter's real attempt to get to terms with the Third World and the double-edged claim that after the cynical politics of the Nixon/Kissinger era, Carter reidentified the US with certain basic ideals - justice, equity, majority rule, self-determination and the dignity of the individual.

The personal portrait Brzezinski draws of Carter is also appealing. Inexperienced, certainly, with a streak of naivety. Also a poor public speaker and a mediocre manager, both in terms of American politics and of his own team. But highly intelligent, brave, loyal, a very able negotiator and genuinely high-principled.

What went wrong? Brzezinski doesn't really give us a specific reply - except of course "bad luck" which brought on the Iranian disaster and the hostages debacle in the last year of the President's term. Reading between the lines of his book, though, it is possible to put together some reasonable answers. In the first place there was "bad luck" of a more fundamental kind than the fall of the Shah. Carter inherited an American public opinion that was "on the turn" between liberalism and conservatism, between optimism and pessimism, between excessive belief in détente with the Soviet Union and equally excessive rejection of it. After Watergate, the American people wanted idealism, which is why they elected Carter rather than Ford. But after Vietnam national pride was badly bruised and so idealism was required with a more brazen and nationalistic face than would have been necessary in the 1960s.

Carter's style - technocratic and casually, almost diffidently, earnest - was quite unable to mould itself to these contours. His idealism was too

"Power and Principle, to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

Philip Howard

Pardon, Noah, your ship is slowing

I'll say this for *Reader's Digest*: it pays its backs well. An article for the Digest will keep the penurious freelance scribbler in brown bread and carbon paper for longer than one for most other publications. Even when it reprints some *bon mot* or other extract as one of those whimsical little footnotes at the bottom of the page, it pays both author and original publisher handsomely.

That apart, predigesting and shortening books for those who cannot be bothered to read a whole book has always seemed to me a philistine thing to do. This may be an intolerably elitist view: but a book is a book; some books are the finest products of the best minds of their generations; there are enough of such books to keep one reading; and one should pay a book and its author the respect of reading the whole works rather than a subbed-down version.

Undeterred by elitist disapproval, *Reader's Digest* is going ahead with the big one. This autumn it is bringing us an improved and abridged version of the Bible. In the beginning was the Word. But the Word was too damned long and too difficult, and busy people with important things to do could not be expected to plough through all those *longwinded* about who begat whom, and Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were, if you remember, the only two who ever got through to the Land of Milk and Honey.

The editors of *Reader's Digest* have managed to slim down the Old Testament by half, and the New Testament by a quarter, so that, according to the puff, "now you can read the Bible cover to cover." Like a thriller rather than a Testament. Jesus's own words have been reduced by about 10 per cent to eliminate repetitions; and when God becomes a bit prolix and boring in the Old Testament, the editors have just cut him off. Pope Gregory the Great said that the Bible is a stream wherein the elephant may swim and the lamb may wade. *Reader's Digest*

easily caricatured as gullibility and his informality as weakness. But it was not only a matter of style and public relations. It was Carter's misfortune to find himself in an international situation that could hardly have been more unfavourable to his purposes. His instincts were constantly at war with the needs of world politics and often of domestic politics also.

Take human rights, for instance - one of the main planks of his platform. He rapidly found that in promoting this concept he not only wrecked his relations with the Russians, thus undermining the SALT process, but also upset a number of the Third World countries he was hoping to influence.

He was never able to evolve a satisfactory solution to the central problem of the Soviet Union. Should he regard Soviet behaviour in Africa or Central America as a bar to progress on disarmament? Should he play the "China card" and risk a worsening of East-West relations?

He vacillated, and indeed institutionalized this confusion in his foreign policy appointments. His heart, represented by his Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, said "Push ahead with détente"; his head, represented by Brzezinski, said "Détente is all very well, but you must link Soviet behaviour in general with specific negotiations; and even if you don't, the American public and Congress will." It is impossible to read all this without a feeling of deep depression for it confirms all the worst fears about the inability of the American system to cope with the problems of world leadership. The weakness of the American cabinet in relation to the presidency, the power of Congress, the multiplicity and force of special interest groups, such as the Zionist lobby, the volatility and ignorance of much of middle America over foreign policy issues - all this puts burdens on the President which require super-human powers to bear.

Yet the electoral system and the power of the media ensure that presidential candidates under modern conditions are not necessarily chosen for their potential skill in managing the incredible complexities of the international world, far less imposing a coherent pattern on American foreign policy. Carter aspired to be a cross between Nixon and Kennedy, but he had neither Nixon's knowledge nor Kennedy's charisma.

Brzezinski himself believes that the only way to restore consistency and moderation is (a) to reorganize the institutions so that the National Security Adviser has a definite coordinating role in foreign policy on the same lines as the Director of the Budget and (b) to revive the post-war notion of a bi-partisan American foreign policy. But the first of these could have no more than marginal effects and the second, though infinitely desirable, would entail the abandonment of the right-wing ideology that is President Reagan's dominant political asset.

The answer must be good, moderate leadership. But where is it to come from? Brzezinski remarked in conversation recently that had Carter been prepared to bomb Tehran, even at the sacrifice of the might have won the election. He is probably right. And Carter was certainly right to refrain. But the price extracted by the electorate for his restraint will not exactly encourage others to follow his example. It is a bleak prospect.

Philip Howard



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TOWARDS STABILITY

Yesterday's cuts in the major banks' base interest rates were hardly dramatic. The fall was only half a point and had been predicted for some time. But they are particularly welcome because they mark the end of an unpleasant phase of uncertainty for Britain in the financial markets.

Lower oil prices were bound to lead to a relative fall in sterling, because they are more beneficial to the other major oil-importing industrial countries. Currency dealers took this as a signal for a large-scale assault on sterling, taking it well below a sensible level. At the same time, the future of the United States monetary policy was deeply unclear, as the Federal Reserve Board agonized over whether it should raise interest rates in response to poor money supply figures. For the moment at least, these uncertainties have disappeared. The price of oil has stabilized. Sterling has stabilized and the Federal Reserve Board has decided not to act.

Lord Richardson, retiring governor of the Bank of England, and his American opposite number Mr Paul Volcker have both made it clear that they want to see interest rates much lower worldwide to encourage economic recovery and to help resolve the debt problems of newer industrial nations. But the wish is not enough. At home, both the City and the authorities are taking a cautious line. They expect base rates to fall only one further point in the rest of the year. That is one reason why the Bank of England delayed the latest fall until yesterday. It did not want interest rates to fall too fast for fear that they might rise later with damaging effects on confidence. Too steep a fall could upset the pound and jeopardize the Government's monetary targets. The first two months' money figures for the current year, added to the likelihood that this year's budget

deficit may be higher than intended, do not yet leave much room for manoeuvre.

There is some historical evidence that interest rates reflect past inflation for long periods rather than any deeply perceptive forecasts for the future. The troubles of the international banking system, the running down of oil states' bank balances and the more cautious attitude of bankers, likewise all suggest that interest rates may stay too high for the good of the world economy as inflation falls.

The see-sawing currency markets also exert a malevolent influence. Although bank-fuelled speculation, which shifted from the European currencies to the pound has temporarily abated, it would be foolish to think that speculators will not soon settle on a new target. Raising interest rates remains the most effective short-term way for a government to defend its currency.

This can only change if governments consciously aim at greater stability as a goal in its own right, vital to trade and to business decisions. It was perhaps inevitable that the determined efforts of Britain, the United States and other countries to beat inflation and restore sound money would be bought at the expense of wildly fluctuating exchange rates and interest rates, with the two acting on each other.

Now that so much progress has been made on inflation, governments can pay more attention to these other variables, which are just as vital to the economy. The House of Commons Treasury Committee is a little disinclined to complain that the Government has no interest rate or exchange rate policy. It is impossible to target money, interest rates and the exchange rate at the same time. In the past four years,

having exchange and interest rate targets would have implied abandoning a monetary policy. But there is some sense in the committee's charge. It is possible to aim at the most stable combination of the three, at the cost of some compromise on the purity of any one policy target. As the committee pointed out, wild swings in the value of the currency have more effect on the economy than the odd billion on or off the budget.

Greater stability in financial markets now offers better hopes for big cuts in interest rates than sound money on its own. The Bank of England has already moved in this direction, although it wisely did not try to prop up the pound against the flood of events.

The Williamsburg summit next month is now concentrating people's minds internationally on ways they can cooperate more effectively. Lord Richardson has said more clearly than ever that exchange rate stability should be an important world policy objective. Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, and Dr Henry Kissinger have now proposed interesting and realistic schemes. Japan's prime minister Mr Nakasone has lent his weight.

The summit itself may disappoint such hopes. But it could none the less achieve a great deal if the six smaller nations can persuade the United States to make a moral commitment not to raise interest rates from present levels. That would be the greatest single contribution to currency stability and lower world interest rates. It would also force the United States to take a more responsible attitude to its own budget in the interests of world recovery. For there can be no hope of lasting currency stability and cheap money unless all the major governments take great care to keep their own house in order and do not let any of the vital economic variables get out of control.

UNIFORM OPPORTUNITIES

A generation has passed since the cold winter of 1960 when the last conscript was inducted into the Army. For today's adolescents, National Service is a folk memory, barely remembered even by their parents. Khaki has been replaced by drab greens and the functional outfits of modern fighting men; the nation has relapsed into the ways of its history, holding the armed forces in regard, to be sure, but as a thing apart, a caste. Few homes now have direct contact with the forces by blood: our sympathies and common feelings are relayed and sometimes trivialized by radio, television and newspaper reports. So must it be with the professionalization of the military. Yet the new youth training scheme may be a small antidote now that it has been extended to the armed forces.

In small measure the annual flow of volunteers on twelve-month training placements might replace ignorance and synthetic knowledge with direct perception of the strengths and weaknesses of a peace-time fighting machine. The individual training with the forces, young men and women, will surely benefit in a personal sense; but beyond that there may feed into wider society an appreciation of the work of the armed forces at a level deeper than the celebratory, even adulatory, attitude produced by victory in the Falklands War.

The involvement of the Army,

Navy and Air Force in providing training and work experience for the young unemployed is practical common sense. It is fitting that the announcement of the scheme fell to Mr Michael Heseltine, whose approval of a £1 million subsidy from his own department's funds is a generous gesture. Those close to the minister will remember that among his most enduring impressions from Merseyside in the weeks after Toxteth was not the physical devastation but the pointlessness and emptiness - pointed out to his wife in crude language on more than one occasion - of some of the Manpower Services Commission's schemes for the young jobless. Their limitations are not wholly the fault of the MSC which depends on employers for work experience. It has taken the country's biggest employer - the Government - far too long to realize that within the canyons of the bureaucracy, in the dockyards and in the museums there are many opportunities for practical experience.

The services offer some of the best opportunities. Within the armed forces there exists a magnificent machine for training raw youth. Without undue deviation from its essential purposes that machine can find room for driving instruction, electronics work, maintenance skills - as well as weapons training. The National Service generation is sometimes overfond of emphasizing the "charac-

ter-building" aspects of its experience which at the time appeared to be exactly the opposite. But the forces have changed. Modern armies fight psych-war within as well as without and Mr Heseltine's provision for a 14-day period of "notice" seems sensible and fair. There are at present some seven applicants for each Army vacancy; the 3,200 places on the new scheme are likely to be oversubscribed.

Politicians' talk of the scheme's anticipated compulsory enlistment of the young unemployed is nonsense. Other objects - within the military - should pause, too. There will of course be hesitation over budgets raided and the loss of elasticity that might occur when seasoned trainers are redeployed on the difficult task of knocking immature adolescents into shape in a short space of time. But in the medium run there is a bonus.

Britain's reserves are limited. Without conscription the forces' back-up is considerably less than in other Nato countries. Young men and women with twelve months military training and discipline under their belts will not immediately convert into soldiers or sailors in some future emergency, but they would provide a cadre of half-trained manpower. If during their stints they have acquired a habit of self-reliance and a willingness to respond to a national call to arms then they could form the basis of a reserve force in depth.

Nostell Priory painting

From Mr Eric Lyall

Sir, Some of your readers may have assumed that Mr Barlow's letter (April 9) was intended for publication on April 1. Bearing in mind the possibility that this is not so some answer may be desirable.

Rebus-makers cheerfully made (and make) far worse puns than those suggested by Mr Leslau (Spectrum, March 25).

Jonches - stream flowers, etc - would, to a rebus-maker, be sufficiently near to *jean chaché*. *Faire tapissier* has come to mean "to be a wall-flower" though it has retained its earlier meaning of "to line the walls". *Tapissier* also can mean a carpet.

Crédence or *credence* in English means belief.

The French have gallantly attempted to maintain their language, but there have been developments over the centuries. Perhaps we should add an expert in medieval French to the historian and botanist.

Meanwhile the other meaning of *porter à faux*, "to be inconclusive", may be the most appropriate comment.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC LYALL,
Riders Grove,
Old Hall Green,
Nr Ware,
Hertfordshire.
April 9.

Donnish dalliance

From Mr C. R. K. Perkins

Sir, I find it strange that Richard Holmes, commenting (feature, April 2) on John Donne's Good Friday poem, should say: "It is difficult to imagine him stopping his horse to study the primroses in the Welsh woodlands."

He must know that at Montgomery Castle, his destination in April, 1613, Donne did, in fact, write another poem based on his close observation of a field of primroses, "where their form, and their infinity, make a terrestrial galaxy".

True, he characteristically takes the flower in its various forms as representative of woman and not as an emblem of springtime renewal; but to suggest that he was by nature indifferent to nature is less than fair. Yours faithfully,

C. R. K. PERKINS,
47 Moorpark Road,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.
April 7.

Desirable residence

From Sir Donald Tebbitt

Sir, It is disappointing that your unnamed Foreign Staff's article on diplomatic housing ("The Empire strikes back for the good life", April 6) should have been tailored for the gallery in the usual superficial way. The choice is not a simple one.

Donnish dalliance

From Mr C. R. K. Perkins

Sir, I find it strange that Richard Holmes, commenting (feature, April 2) on John Donne's Good Friday poem, should say: "It is difficult to imagine him stopping his horse to study the primroses in the Welsh woodlands."

He must know that at Montgomery Castle, his destination in April, 1613, Donne did, in fact, write another poem based on his close observation of a field of primroses, "where their form, and their infinity, make a terrestrial galaxy".

True, he characteristically takes the flower in its various forms as representative of woman and not as an emblem of springtime renewal; but to suggest that he was by nature indifferent to nature is less than fair. Yours faithfully,

C. R. K. PERKINS,
47 Moorpark Road,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.
April 7.

Desirable residence

From Sir Donald Tebbitt

Sir, It is disappointing that your unnamed Foreign Staff's article on diplomatic housing ("The Empire strikes back for the good life", April 6) should have been tailored for the gallery in the usual superficial way. The choice is not a simple one.

Labour's policy for pensioners

From Mr Brynmor John, MP for Pontypridd (Labour) and Mr Peter Shore, MP for Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar (Labour)

Sir, Your Political Correspondent, Anthony Bevis, simply got it wrong when he wrote last Wednesday (feature, April 6) about Labour's policy for pensioners. He has mixed up two separate matters.

The costing of £2bn for "benefits and pension increases" given in Labour's pre-Budget Economic Statement relates to the full-year costs of measures we considered of priority in year one, had we been in power at the time of last month's Budget.

Labour's 12-point plan for pensioners is a phased programme and the costings given were not the full-year cost of the plan when wholly implemented.

Yours faithfully,
BRYNMOR JOHN,
PETER SHORE,
House of Commons.
April 12.

Post-coital pill

From Mr Gerald Wright, QC

Sir, Mr Ian Kennedy asserts (April 11) that the law on abortion concerns itself with pregnancy and procuring a miscarriage. This is not so. It is quite true that the Offences against the Person Act 1861 strikes at acts done "without intent to procure the miscarriage of any woman"; but the underlying policy of our law, both in that Act and in the common law from time immemorial, is the protection of human life.

Would anyone wish it to be otherwise?

Legal authors of the past dealt with abortion at common law in terms of the medical knowledge of their day. Thus Bracton deemed abortion to be homicide and said that such homicide was committed when the foetus was *animatum* (alive). Later authors, eg Coke, reduced the crime committed from homicide to "a great misprison" and said that it was committed when a woman was "quick with child". Quick, of course, means alive.

We know that quickening is a physical sensation experienced by a mother when, for the first time, she feels life within her. In fact she has had life within her since the moment of conception, for it is an indisputable biological fact that human life begins at fertilization.

The post-coital pill destroys the life that the woman carries within her. I agree with Dr Fennis (April 5) that in doing so it causes her to miscarry within the meaning of the Offences against the Person Act 1861. However, even were this not so, it is still an offence at common law to destroy that which Bracton described as *animatum* and Coke as "quick".

We now know that the fertilized ovum is both *animatum* and "quick" because it has human life, and I would therefore suggest that, statute apart, the common law of England protects the living but unimplanted conceptus and renders the use of the post-coital pill criminal.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD WRIGHT,
Melbourne Buildings,
21 North John Street,
Liverpool.
April 11.

From Dr Margaret White

Sir, In over 20 years on the Bench I have come to expect lawyers to use words like Humpty Dumpty, to suit their own purposes. Ian Kennedy (April 11) is the first lawyer in my experience to use emphasis in this way. He writes: "We only speak of an ectopic pregnancy if the egg has implanted somewhere."

We don't speak of an ectopic pregnancy but an *ectopic* pregnancy, meaning that in this case the pregnancy is extra-uterine.

On the question of test-tube babies he asks: "Whose pregnancy would the test-tube baby be?" If there is no human life before implantation why does he use the expression test-tube baby? Likewise, what do infertile women receive when they pay for *in-vitro* fertilization?

Nothing is added to the embryo in the womb except nourishment. If life is not present before the fertilized egg is injected into the womb it certainly won't be there afterwards.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET WHITE,
196 Lower Addiscombe Road,
Croydon,
Surrey.
April 11.

Christians and Jews

From Mr Noel Hughes

Sir, In his perceptive comment on your leader, "Jesus was a Jew" (April 2) Professor Moule pointed out (April 7) that it was under the swastika, rather than the Cross, that the Jews suffered their holocaust. Perhaps he might agree that, today, it is the hammer and sickle rather than the Cross that bears most hard.

May I take up a point that Professor Moule passed by? "The record of organized Christendom", you argued, "entitles no Christian to presume that his church is any more complete in its spirituality than the rabbinical approach theoretically left behind, in the wrong, twenty centuries ago". The years of diaspora have brought the Jews much persecution, but also a freedom from the responsibility for the exercise of political power. Will Israel prove true to Judaism as "organized Christendom" has been to the teaching of Christ?

There is a glaring paradox in Israel today that prompts the question. Nowhere in the world is greater effort made than in Israel to keep fresh the memory of the holocaust experience; and I can understand why that should be so. Nowhere is the doctrine of Herren-volk preached with such disgusting and authentic clarity as it is in Israel by Rabbi Kahane; and I cannot understand why that should be so. Yours faithfully,
NOEL HUGHES,
16 Mount Ararat Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
April 11.

Politics and voluntary bodies

From the Chairman of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, The Dr Vaughan "affair" has potentially raised a number of crucial questions about the relations between Government and independent bodies in receipt of Exchequer financial support and about the proper balance between independence and accountability.

For many years voluntary organisations have received grants from public funds. Such funding has increased very considerably over the past decade; and today many of our social and other welfare services depend on the contributions of voluntary organisations working in partnership with local authorities and central government.

While those who work with the elderly or handicapped, with children in trouble or ex-offenders, with the mentally ill or chronically sick and those assisting the poor or unemployed or seeking to improve our environment have a primary interest in providing services, they may also seek to improve conditions or address the causes of problems. This may well lead voluntary organisations and others to advocate changes in the policies and practices of a local authority or of a government department in the interests of those they seek to serve.

Successful ministers and civil servants have benefited from the advice given by voluntary organisations. It would be a sad loss to the evolution of social policy and to the processes of government if voluntary organisations in receipt of public funds were forbidden from expressing their views on policy and administration as it affects their proper aims.

Political subversion by government paymasters would be as dangerous and improper in this context as in the other areas of our free society where the principle of the "arm's length" grant (support) without control of policy, though subject to scrutiny of propriety and efficiency) has also long been recognized, e.g. the arts, university teaching and research, the BBC, the judiciary, royalty and certain international bodies and causes. There is already adequate protection in the existing charities law against "political" abuse by the recipients; but it is for the Charity Commissioners by due process to enforce, not for ministers by administrative whimsy.

There remains lamentable confusion about what is and what is not "political" activity. Case law suggests that some aims are classified as political whereas others are not, even though both seek to influence public policy, legislation, etc; and this breeds suspicion that the judgment between them is itself "political", with a bias against those who would change rather than conserve the status quo.

It would be more in accordance with the principle that law should be clear, ascertainable and predictable if a simpler, more objective test were

Housing Bill

From the Chairman of the Consumers' Association

Sir, The Housing and Building Control Bill, which is now on its way through Parliament, creates a right which enables the Secretary of State to pass on, to bodies which are not answerable to Parliament, his statutory power to give practical guidance on the general safety requirements of the building regulations.

The bodies which could be given the power under the Bill to approve the guidance documents are likely to be private organisations and may in their turn approve a document issued by a third organisation. In addition, if a particular document proved in use to be unacceptable there is no procedure in the Bill for forcing its withdrawal.

Furthermore, the Bill gives the documents containing the guidance legal status. In a prosecution for a breach of the regulations, or in an action for negligence, a failure to have complied with a document will tend to establish liability, while compliance will tend to negative liability.

It is true that British Standards, for example, have been used to indicate ways in which a builder or producer may comply with the building regulations, but final approval of the use of the standard for this purpose has remained with the Secretary of State and the relevant standards have been incorporated in a formal statutory instrument.

In addition, there have been consultations with all interested parties including consumer representatives. Maybe the new-style "approved documents" do not need to be laid before Parliament, but they ought to gain their status by being directly approved by the Secretary of State who is responsible

adopted, namely - that politics is essentially about the retention and transference of government power and that, in a democratic society and in the present context, "political" activity consisted only of activity whose aims include, overtly or covertly, the influencing of the electoral process in favour of (or against) any person or party.

Contributing to debates on public policy and administration would not, as such, constitute "political" activity in this context. If it did, every body that ever sought to influence government and Parliament, including many highly respected and worthy charities, would be caught.

If they are excluded, then the line can only be drawn either "subjectively" according to how controversial the influence is or "objectively" in relation to the electoral process itself. Objectivity is better.

I believe that the recognition of these principles would both uphold the proper freedom and independence of voluntary bodies (and others receiving "arm's length" government support), satisfy Parliament as to the proper and efficient use of the taxpayers' money, reinforce desirable partnership between central and local government and voluntary bodies and correct the present unsatisfactory confusion - and resulting suspicion - over the definition of "political" activity.

Our free and plural society would be healthier for thus dissipating the shadow of "Big Brother", while leaving the electoral process as the proper domain of the parties and the politicians.

Yours etc,
PETER JAY, Chairman,
National Council for Voluntary Organisations,
26 Bedford Square, WCI.
April 14.

From Mrs Margaret P. Kerry

Sir, I was very pleased to read your report of, and leader on (April 12) the attack on citizens' advice bureaux by Dr Gerald Vaughan.

As one of many volunteer workers, I am training to be of use in a local CAB. I have been impressed by the thoroughness of the training, the devotion of the mainly unpaid workers and the high principles behind the organization.

Even more impressive has been the gratitude expressed to me by clients who have come to rely on the bureau for confidential and impartial help.

It is obvious from our day book that our clients are from many walks of life and their problems are as diverse as their backgrounds. One is proud to be part of this most helpful, and, in our increasingly bureaucratic system, essential organization.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET P. KERRY,
318 Ashgate Road,
Chesham, Bucks.

to Parliament. He should assure himself that there has been adequate consultation with all interested parties.

If the Bill is not amended, the power of the Secretary of State's representatives - his officials - to influence decisions will be reduced and the way will be open for special, including private, interests to define criteria of public interest behind closed doors.

Of course, the British Standards Institution has its own procedures for public consultation, but other bodies may not have such a procedure. When the consultation is finished, a decision has to be taken on the public interest, particularly when there is disagreement on acceptable levels of safety. The decision should be taken by the Secretary of State.

We do not believe that the constitutional implications have been widely understood and discussed and the precedent the Bill could establish could have serious implications for safety legislation.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL WATERHOUSE,
Chairman,
Consumers' Association,
14 Buckingham Street, WC2.

Buying British

From Major E. D. Stroud

Sir, Dishwashers, too, it seems are no longer made in Britain. Wishing to replace our aged Colston, my wife wrote to the Electricity Council enquiring about a British-made model. The Electricity Council replied: "We do not know of any dishwashers that are British made" and recommended a foreign model.

Yours faithfully,
E. D. STROUD,
Lantern Cottage,
35 Upper Street, West Harnham,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

the drama of his life on earth as Jesus. He did not forget the prophets through whose mouth he spoke; those who would have killed him as a new-born baby; those who would listen to him entranced and obey him but soon afterwards would call for his blood; the man who betrayed him; the man who executed him.

God chose a particular time, place and circumstances yet was not their product in the person of Jesus Christ. This is the reason why - contrary to your leading article - Jesus could not be considered as "the massive gift with which Jewry has endowed the Christian world".

As far as antisemitism is concerned, sufficient grounds for rejecting it lie in the rejection of any sort of ignorance which disregards Jesus's command to love one's neighbour. Negative feelings towards certain actions of the state of Israel do not represent antisemitism but anti-Isrealism, a parallel to which can be found in anti-Americanism.

Yours faithfully,
IVAN JELINEK,
6 Gordon Avenue,
East Sheen, SW14.

Health service distortions

From Professor John A. Davis and others

Sir, There has been much rejoicing in the press over the Government's decision to keep open the Tadworth branch of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children with the help of charitable monies. We acknowledge the very high standards of care provided there for a relatively small number of chronically ill children, but we question whether this is really the way to run a health service, bearing in mind the Government's expressed wish to delegate decision-making from the centre to the periphery.

Here in the Cambridge paediatric unit for various reasons we have both the highest bed occupancy and throughput in the country, even though these measures of workload are usually reciprocally related. Shortage of nursing staff, unsuitable accommodation and lack of necessary equipment make it difficult to keep a high-class service going. We are therefore surprised and envious that large sums of money can be found to head off a prudential decision on the part of the Governors of Great Ormond Street to cut their cost according to the cloth available.

This is by no means the only case of which we are aware where political considerations have led to the overruling by central authorities of sensible decisions by health authorities to make the best use of the resources made available. It makes nonsense of the Government's professed desire for devolution in the administration of the NHS.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. DAVIS,
N. R. C. ROBERTSON,
N. D. BARNES,
University of Cambridge
Clinical School,
Department of Paediatrics,
Level 8,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Hills Road,
Cambridge.

Stamp of neglect

From Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP for Epping Forest (Conservative)

Sir, I read in your columns today (April 12) that the festival, "Britain salutes New York", is to be held on the anniversary of the treaty severing the Americans, against the wishes of very many of them, from the British Crown.

Likewise, our Post Office celebrated the bicentennial of the revolutionary republic with a special postal issue. It rejected my request for a special issue to honour the United Empire Loyalists who, 200 years ago, endured suffering and loss in moving to Canada or the Caribbean so as to stay beneath the British Crown and flag. It was my hope, and that of today's United Empire Loyalists, that a special stamp should be issued in Canada, too.

This putting of those who have been against us before those who have been for us is a piece with the discussion of Sir John A. Macdonald on naming the dominion the Kingdom of Canada - lest Washington be offended. We should show a little loyalty and gratitude and stop crawling.

I remain, Sir,
YOUR MOST OBEIENT SERVANT,
JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON,
House of Commons.
April 12.

Public records

From Mr Anthony J. Camp

Sir, The "entire answer" to Mrs Elizabeth Stazicker (April 11) is for Lord Teviot's Bill to be amended to enable the copies of the 100-year-old records, presently in the hands of the local superintendent registrars, to be passed to the county record offices.

It is an absurd omission: it would save the cost of purchasing microfilm and reduce by half the congestion in any central repository. Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY J. CAMP, Director,
Society of Genealogists,
37 Harrington Gardens, SW7.
April 11.

Elgin Marbles

From Mr B. F. Cook

Sir, With reference to the letter you published on April 8 from Dr Mainstone, your readers may care to know that the British Museum has for some time been discussing this very matter with the official Greek Committee for the Preservation of the Acropolis Monuments. This followed their request for replicas to be made of several architectural members, including those mentioned, in connection with the restoration of the Erechtheion.

Yours faithfully,
B. F. COOK, Keeper,
Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities,
The British Museum, WC1.
April 11.

Stumped on the crease

From Mr Clive Farley

Sir, Clare Colvin's criticism, in her review of *Charles's Aunt* (April 7), that "surely an old soldier like Colonel Sir Francis Chesney would not wear a pair of flannels without a sharply ironed crease" is unjustified.

For formal wear in 1892 trousers would have remained uncreased. Creases did not appear in trousers until the late twenties with the advent of trouser-presses, and only into common currency in the Edwardian era.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE FARLEY,
19 Florence Road,
Bournemouth,
Dorset.
April 8.

WALES

Demands for devolution no longer divide the nation. The overwhelming problem is unemployment and united efforts are being made to attract new industries and holiday visitors while retaining Welsh traditions.

Politicians, praise be, are not infallible. If they were then the social order in Wales today would have disintegrated before an unremitting wave of unemployment. Anarchy would stalk the land and despair be turned into rebellion. This was the scenario painted three years ago by a parliamentary select committee primed by warnings that by this time 140,000 people could be on the dole in the principality.

Sadly, that figure has been passed and now 17.3 per cent or 178,077 people are unemployed, but the Welsh have emerged stoically from the storm of savage de-industrialization to confound the pessimists.

From Shotton in the North to Port Talbot in the South, British Steel has shed jobs like leaves in an autumn storm and those communities have paid the price for relying too heavily in the past on one major employer.

It is a picture repeated in the South Wales valleys, where the reign of king coal has diminished until there are now only 33 pits remaining in the area. After July only one pit will remain in the Rhondda valley whose seams fuelled the warships of the Empire.

The story, unfortunately, is not confined to the old traditional industries which have now been slumped down in the face of the recession.

The towns of Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock in Dyfed are ringed by oil refineries but the hopes of unending prosperity on the back of black gold have been dashed against an unemployment rate of 30 per cent. And in Gwynedd, stronghold of the Welsh language and traditions, jobs have disappeared as the hugely impressive

Dinorwic hydro-electric power scheme nears completion.

But not all is doom in the Celtic kingdom, for the Welsh, geographically on the wrong edge of Europe, are fighting back. Government-funded agencies such as the Development Corporation for Wales and Mid Wales Development, known until recently as the Development Board for Rural Wales, have been working unremittingly to attract and develop jobs in the country.

Last month in a stroke, worthy of the best of Madison Avenue, Mid Wales Development hijacked the legendary Orient Express and took it from King's Cross to the Harrogate Fashion Fair to convince the moguls of high fashion that the designers of the area have long since shed their "tawdry tapestry" image. Mythology dies hard but the populist image of a strike-happy workforce is no longer deserved. Even the miners, traditionally regarded as the backbone of Welsh working class militancy, could decide only by half of 1 per cent to strike over a threatened pit and that action petered out through lack of support from the other British coalfields.

Superficially, Wales appears to be just another integrated region of Britain and many a retired couple from England live out their lives in Colwyn Bay or Prestatyn without ever understanding the nature or the culture of their adopted land. They never see that away from the coastal caravan and candy floss plain, just a few miles into the hills, the rural Welsh live a different life shrouded in the secrecy of an old culture and language.

The language, spoken by some 300,000 people, is at its eleventh hour. It has withstood

repression, discriminatory acts of Parliament and vilification from within to persist against the odds. But the greatest challenge has come from the ease with which Anglo-American pop culture is being imported into the home. Chapels have become bingo halls and the faithful of the Welsh non-conformist tradition are now mostly elderly.

Just when it appeared that the language was to be engulfed the Welsh speakers mounted a tremendous rearguard action and now the language enjoys a status that minorities in other countries, such as Breton, can only envy.

While clinging stubbornly to cultural differences, politically the Welsh are firmly entrenched in the mainstream of British politics. Although urged to do so by everyone with the exception of the Conservative Party, the nation resoundingly rejected the opportunity of having its own devolved assembly. The result was a body known as the Welsh Nationalist Party, who manage

to return only two highly able members to Parliament.

Partly to meet this challenge the nationalists decided to campaign from a socialist platform but its first test under this banner did not improve its fortunes when its candidate was badly beaten at the Gower by-election.

More recently its campaign urging people to withhold payment of water rates because they pay more than consumers in England has received broader support and the issue is now to be tested in the High Court.

But it appears likely that the party will continue to remain as no more than a peripheral threat to the big battalions who at the next election will be contesting 38 seats, two more than last time.

In spite of the furious ideological battles that have beset the party in England, the Labour Party in Wales continues to project a caring, almost old-fashioned image and at the next election it will be hoping that this solid front can

help it to regain the losses it suffered last time.

The Liberal-SDP Alliance, which came second in Gower, will point to the legacy left by successive local Labour administrations when it takes to the hustings.

For the once mighty industrial valleys, where huge personal fortunes were made out of iron and coal, have some of the worst housing in Britain. Within sight of these mean, sub-standard homes, the opulent palaces of the masters still stand as a monument to incredible insensitivity. According to some estimates 40 out of every 100 homes in the valleys are unfit to live in, making a total of 15.4 per cent of Welsh homes sub-standard, compared with a figure of 9.6 in England. But the little two-up, two-down houses are the legacy of every government. It is just cruel that in a more enlightened age the wealth which caused them to be built so hastily has dissipated in the face of the world recession.

There are problems too in education where a worrying 25

per cent of Welsh schoolchildren leave after 11 years of full time education without a single piece of paper to take to a prospective employer. Alarmingly, in some industrial areas of the south where the old miners' libraries no longer function, this figure climbs to above 30 per cent.

Superficially, these factors might deter potential industrialists, but those who have made their home in Wales are generally delighted by the willingness and adaptability of the workforce. And communications are generally much better than is supposed for most companies.

In the South most concerns are within easy reach of the M4 motorway, while in the North the A55 is being developed into a high density artery. Communications between North and South Wales remain unimpressive but then most traffic flows eastwards into England.

In the vast, pleasant and underpopulated tract of the central region, Mid Wales

Development has pioneered small factories providing 6,000 job opportunities and is continuing to attract industry in spite of a seemingly strange decision by the Government to abolish assisted area status for the greater part of its area. The agency backs up its work by an effective social development programme which has improved the quality of life in a host of ways ranging from assistance with the building of new community halls to the grant aid for improved television reception.

Inexorably entwined with its great neighbour, the Welsh steadfastly refuse to be completely assimilated. The Welsh are stereotyped by rugby and song, but find nothing amusing or derogatory in these associations. The love of both are deeply ingrained into the character. The similarities with their English friends abound, but under the surface the differences are as immovable as the mighty castles built to subdue them.

Tim Jones
Welsh Correspondent

ECONOMY

Ready for the upturn

Wales, battered disproportionately by the economic gales which stripped the country of jobs after the boom years of the Sixties, is emerging bruised but fitter to take advantage of the industrial upturn forecast by the CBI.

The recession had a dramatic effect on the Principality, and in the steel towns of Shotton, Port Talbot and Newport the consequences were particularly shattering. More than most, those communities suffered from having their industrial eggs in one basket and as the steel plants shrank in capacity, jobs were lost in supply industries. In the nine years to 1982, Wales lost 38,000 jobs in steel, and Mr Ian MacGregor, previously head of British Steel and now appointed chairman of the National Coal Board, recently told the Parliamentary Select Committee on Welsh Affairs that more redundancies could be on the way.

Abortive industrial action, coupled with threats of mobilizing the trade union triple alliance of steel, coal and rail, failed to halt the cuts and left the bitter accusation that Wales had been treated more harshly than the rest of Britain.

Although the human cost has been high, with Wales now suffering from an unprecedented unemployment rate of 18.000, the strategy seems to have been vindicated in strict business terms.

For since the cuts in jobs, particularly in the last few years, productivity at the steel plant has increased dramatically. Llanwern, for instance, has recently broken through the four man-hours per tonne barrier, bringing it to 3.8 hours, and the plant has been breaking output records.

There remains, however, the possibility that long-term prospects for steel sales are gloomy. Some claim that the present slight upturn is merely a temporary quirk caused by companies trying to beat price increases or building up stocks slightly after a long period of run-down.

Largely because of the political muscle of the miners, the coal industry has thus far escaped the kind of slimming operation to which steel has been subjected.

However, the failure, bitterly resented, of the other coalfields to back them over their abortive fight to save the Tynmawr-Lewis Merthyr colliery, coupled with

continued on next page



Rhymney Valley, Gwent: the old industries have had their day, but new ones take their place

INDUSTRY

Aid package brings in new firms

The way Wales goes about attracting new industries is getting a big facelift. One change has been the formation of WINVEST - Wales Investment Location - to take over from the 25-year-old Development Corporation for Wales.

This new organization has a core of Development Corporation experts who have been in the forefront of bringing foreign companies to Wales, but it has more muscle. It has been given responsibility for the allocation of advance factories and the availability of selective government cash aid to industry.

Previously, factory allocations had to be referred to the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) and financial assistance to the Welsh Office Industry Department.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, in announcing that WINVEST would start on April 1, said: "The aim is to provide a one-stop shop for the prospective overseas investor and a sharper focus for our inward investment effort."

Throughout the recession Wales has maintained a good track record in attracting new companies although the scale of job creation has been swamped by redundancies in older industries such as steel.

The successes continue. A Finnish company has recently announced it is building a pulp and newsprint mill on Decade, employing 270 people, and more than 1,000 jobs are expected to be created in back-up industries such as timber and haulage.

At Bridgend, in South Wales, the American-owned Align-Rite Corporation is the latest high-technology company to select Wales. It will be the first on a new industrial park being developed by Mid Glamorgan County Council, and will make photomasks - a product used in manufacturing microchips.

Mid Wales Development, the promotional name adopted by the Development Board for Rural Wales, attracts a steady stream of new businesses to its advance factories. Recently, these have included a computer company at Aberystwyth, an engineering company at Towyn and the expansion of a golf

continued on next page

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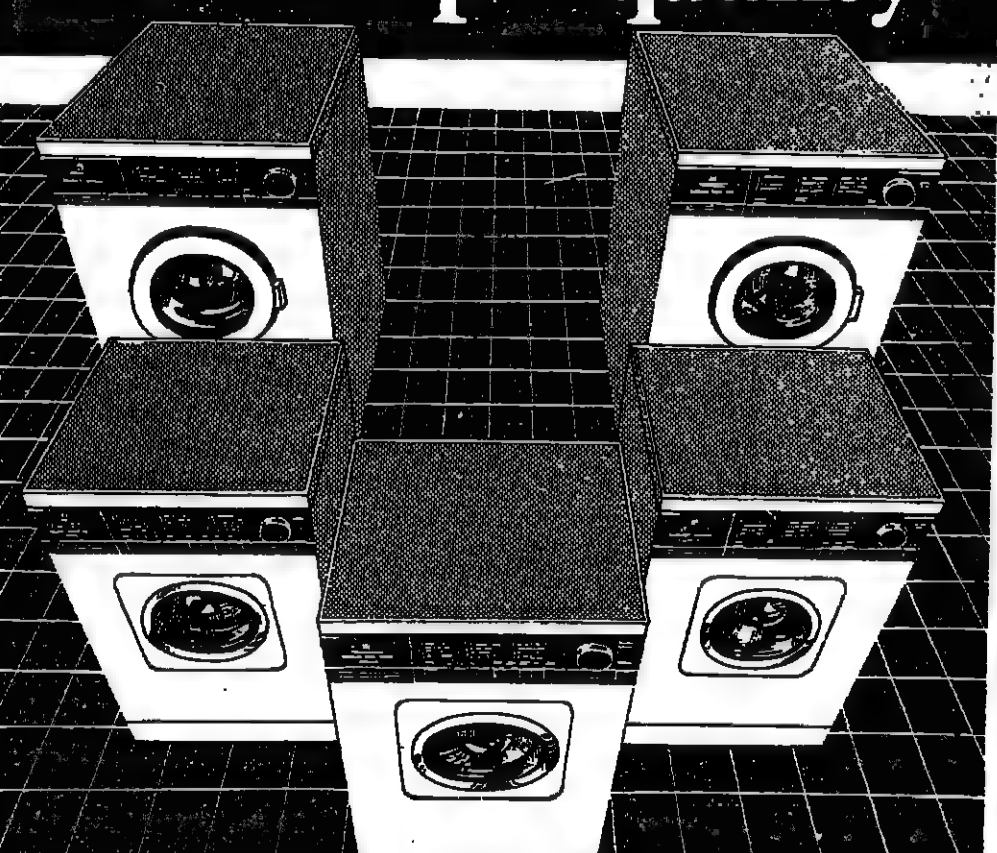
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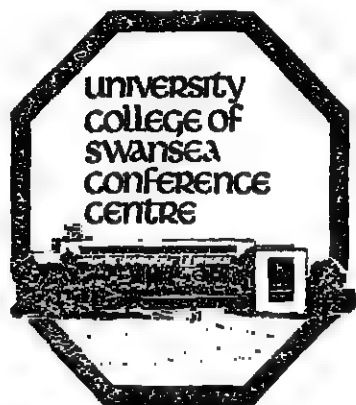
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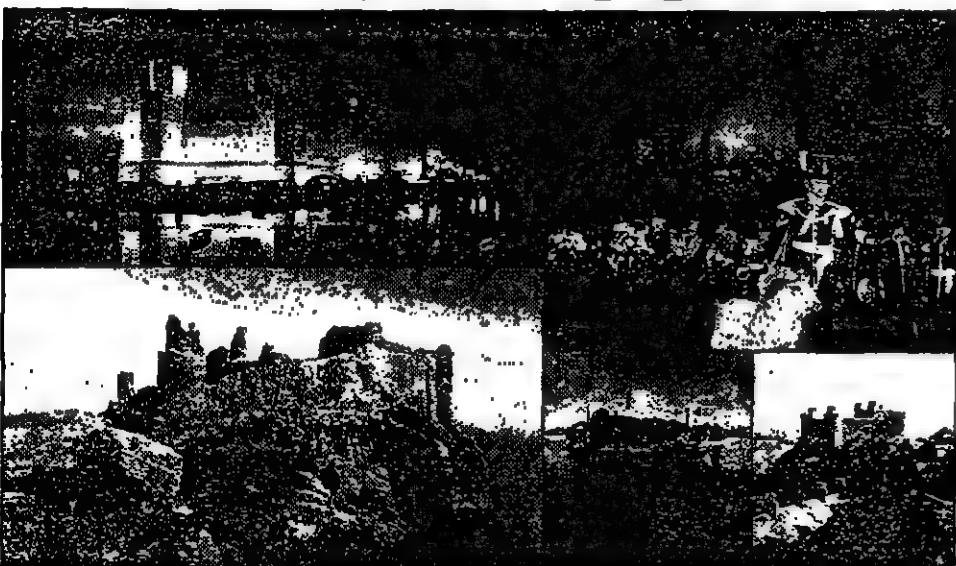
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Rates standstill thanks to county

Industry in North Wales is congratulating Clwyd County Council for deciding not to increase its rates this year. In a statement, the Confederation of British Industry said that on behalf of Clwyd employers it was pleased to offer appreciation and thanks to a County authority.

Mr Lewis Davies, CBI Wales's North Wales chairman, said: "Credit should be given where it is due and I am delighted that

Clwyd councillors have had the guts to acknowledge that no council can immunise itself from the recession through rate increases.

"Their votes will directly assist local companies to be competitive, help safeguard jobs and set an example which I trust other counties will try to copy."

Mr Davies is site general manager of the Rayon manufacturers Courtaulds, in Holywell.

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS Wednesday March 2 1983

Clwyd - a better business decision

Talk to Wayne Morgan, County Industrial Officer, Clwyd County Council, Shire Hall, Mold, Clwyd. Tel: Mold (0352) 2121. Telex: 61454.

WALESE POLITICS

The voters won't be taken for granted

There are recidivists in politics as there are in crime and, despite the short, sharp shock they were given in the referendum four years ago, some old lags have still not given up the idea of devolution for Wales. They certainly persist within the SDP, and the Labour Party too continue to argue the case - in both cases now for the whole of Britain - as a way of ensuring the public accountability of non-elected bodies.

Not surprisingly, the Labour Party in Wales is at best wary about continuing to back an idea which has been emphatically demonstrated to be a loser. But perhaps in Wales people are yearning for a time not so long past when the idea of Welsh politics seemed to be significant in a United Kingdom context.

After all, it was exciting to be at the centre of the political stage; to have a government spending two legislative years trying to establish Welsh and Scottish assemblies. It was certainly exciting for the nationalists as chief whips came calling on their MPs, asking after their health and their voting intentions.

But the election which followed the devolution referendum in 1979 is supposed to have demonstrated that, far from being a special case, politics in Wales were becoming more and more like those in England. That was shown, it was argued, by the fact that support for the Conservatives went up to a remarkable 32.2 per cent, Labour's share of the poll was down at 45.9 per cent and Plaid Cymru managed only just over 8 per cent.

That was perhaps a rather simplistic way of looking at the results, and it is equally possible to argue that politics in Wales have become more, rather than less, distinctive, in fact, which forced the Conservative Party in particular to adopt a much clearer attitude towards Wales.

Whereas the Conservatives had insisted for many years that the future of Wales was inextricably bound up with that of the rest of the United Kingdom, they had, when Labour was making the running

on devolution, to define their attitudes to Wales and to assert their own view of it.

It was, after all, a Conservative government which established the Commons Select Committee on Welsh Affairs which, while it was not intended as an answer to the devolution proposals, at least helped to legitimise the idea that there were distinctive Welsh problems which demanded a separate analysis.

And while it opposed the idea of setting up bodies like the Welsh Development Agency, the present Government has in fact been extremely solicitous, since taking office, to see that such organizations actually work.

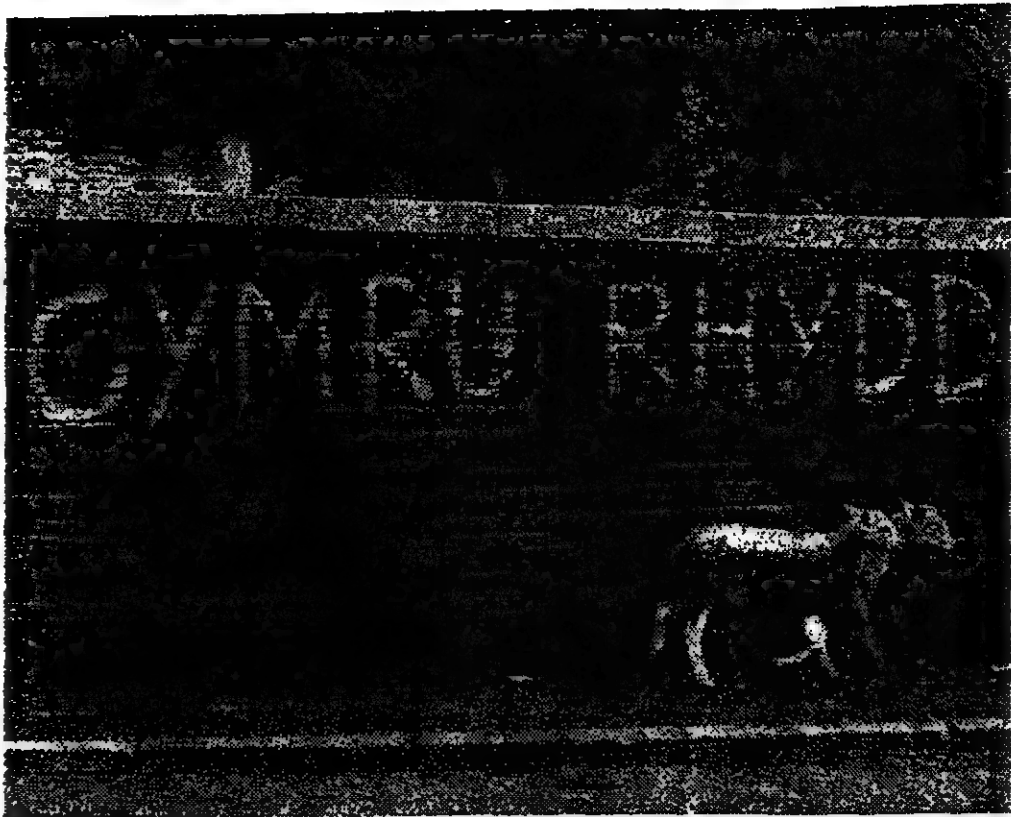
So Welsh politics exist to some extent because the organizations exist - most notably the Welsh Office, which has been given increased power by each successive government since the first Secretary of State took office less than 20 years ago.

It seems to be institutional momentum as much as deliberate political policy which has brought about more Welsh-based, as distinct from class-based, politics in Wales, but it looks at first glance as though the Conservatives have been the main beneficiaries.

At the 1966 general election, Labour won 32 of the 36 Welsh seats. The Conservatives took three and the Liberals one. By 1979 Labour were hanging on to 21 seats, the Conservatives had 11, Plaid Cymru two and the Liberals one. (The odd one out is Cardiff West, represented by the Speaker, who was once a Labour MP.)

But there is a lot more to Welsh politics than a simple analysis which suggests the decline of Labour, the rise of the Conservatives (and, just possibly one day, the SDP) with Plaid Cymru dodging around at somewhere under 10 per cent of the poll and the Liberals, as ever, failing to represent in seats their share of support.

In individual constituencies voters have shown that they are capable of great volatility. Tactical voting was evident in Wales long before it became fashionable in Bermondsey and



"Free Wales" slogan near Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales

other places. It is impossible to escape the conclusion that Gwynfor Evans won Carmarthen for Plaid Cymru in 1974 because Conservative and Labour voters wanted Labour to lose. In the same way Labour lost Cardigan to the Liberals because Plaid Cymru and Conservative supporters decided to vote the anti-Labour ticket.

It would, though, be dangerous to underestimate the strength of the Labour Party in Wales, which is essentially cautious, respectable and traditionalist: last year, for instance, its annual conference voted for the expulsion of Militant. The party also retains its overwhelming control of local government in the areas of Wales in which councils are politicized, and its hold on traditional loyalties was demonstrated in the Gower by-election last September.

Labour certainly lost ground with a majority cut from 10,000 to 7,000; but the Conservatives fell back too, coming third after competing for votes with the SDP particularly in the middle-class areas of the constituency. But what was most impressive about a rather dull campaign was Labour's ability to retain its solid core of support.

Not many years ago the excitement about that by-election would probably have been created by Plaid Cymru, who mounted some staggering assaults on Labour majorities in the 1960s. But now Plaid Cymru seems rather to have lost its way as it tries to combine issue politics with a traditional party approach.

There is no doubt that it was damaged by the devolution episode; throwing out the idea of an assembly by a huge majority is a pretty dusty answer to a party whose aim is self-government for Wales.

The campaign for a Welsh language television channel backed by a programme of civil disobedience can be counted a success for Plaid Cymru.

But an attempt to create the same kind of pressure over what English authorities pay for Welsh water failed to make the same impact, despite the fact that those with no nationalist sympathies whatsoever are liable to turn purple when they open their bills from the Welsh Water Authority.

The last genuine test of Welsh political attitudes - the Gower by-election - put Plaid Cymru a head fourth. The party desperately needs a much better performance before the next

general election and further opportunities are likely to be available soon.

Two of Wales' leading politicians - Michael Roberts, the Conservative MP for Cardiff North-West, and Alec Jones, the Labour member for Rhondda, recently died suddenly within a few weeks of each other - sadly for those who like colour, energy and goodwill in their politics.

The Cardiff seat, it is generally felt, is naturally Tory, even if with only a 6,200 majority. But at the same time it is the kind of seat the SDP will have to win if it is to provide a really significant presence in the next Parliament.

Rhonda represents everything that industrial Welsh seats have always been said to be. A Labour majority of 31,000 testifies to the fierce loyalty the party commands there. A political mountaineer will need his oxygen bottles to climb over that lot. But even there the voters refuse to be taken for granted. When Jones was first elected 16 years ago, he had a majority of only 2,000 over Plaid Cymru.

Patrick Hannan

The BBC's Welsh Political Correspondent

All ready for the upturn

In North Wales the quarrying of slate has long ceased to be a major source of employment and the industry now employs only some 400 people. But old mines, such as Lledwedd at Blaenau Ffestiniog, have been reopened as tourist attractions and their effect on the economy of the area has been startling.

The slowdown of the steel plant and retraction of dependent industries has alerted new industrialists to the availability of a highly skilled workforce. Statistics prove categorically that their reputation for being strike-happy just is not true.

Japanese companies have found that the workers adapt readily to new management styles and produce work of high quality. At Shotton, British

Steel Industry has been working closely with the Welsh Development Agency to attract new industry and there are new companies established on the site of the steel works. Since 1978 BSC industry in Wales has helped to create, expand or relocate 320 companies in the Principality, involving 13,000 job commitments.

More good news from the Principality came last month from Mr Meirion Lewis, chief executive of the Development Corporation of Wales. He said that in the next six months five European firms, five American and three from Japan were expected to announce decisions to set up in Wales.

This month the Wales TUC will be releasing details of the

Wales Co-operative Development and Training Scheme, which will aim at the creation of 1,000 new jobs in the next three years. Already the centre, which will have a full-time director, has been promised £100,000 from local authorities, the same amount from the Welsh Office, £60,000 from the European Social Fund and £45,000 from the Welsh Development Agency.

Throughout the Principality there is a very cautious optimism that the worst may be over. No one underestimates the problems but there is a belief that the lessons of steel Wales can emerge with a healthy and more diversified industrial base.

T.J.

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WALES

TOURISM

Welcoming the greenery back to the valleys

Stereotyped images are hard to erase. Just as Snowdonia is known to be beautiful, so the South Wales valleys are thought of as unmitigably miserable - grim, depressing places that the tourist has to motor through on his way to the Brecon Beacons, the undulating richness of Mid-Wales and the high grandeur of the North.

But the tourist should stop and investigate, for as the great industries of coal and steel have declined so the valleys are being returned to the kind of beauty they had before they were ravaged by the industrial revolution. Soon there will be only one pit left in the Rhondda valley, an area that was once synonymous with the production of coal.

The National Coal Board has spent millions of pounds on removing and landscaping pits and once-barren hillsides have been transformed into attractive wooded vistas.

As part of its effort to capture an increased share of the British tourist market, the Wales Tourist Board is co-operating with local councils in promoting a "Visit the Valleys" campaign. Six thousand brochures are being printed, extolling the virtues of the two Rhondda valleys, which also offer a treasurehouse of discovery for the student of industrial history.

Further west, private and public bodies have combined to form the Neath Development Partnership, which recently announced a £3.5m development, embracing nine separate projects which link existing facilities in the Gower Peninsula, Swansea, and West Glamorgan with the Brecon Beacons.

The partnership hopes that the scheme will provide 600 new jobs in an area that suffers an unemployment rate of more than 18 per cent, and its attractions are geared to creating a balance of interest for all members of the family. While some visitors will enjoy a leisurely canal trip, others will be able to ski down the most extensive main slope in Britain. Some of the attractions already exist and last year one of them, the Pencyr Wildlife Park, attracted more than 215,000 visitors.

The scheme is an interesting example of how both sides of the industry can combine for the benefit. It includes British Petroleum, British Steel Industry, Thomson International, Metal Box, PSA Management Consultants, the borough council, the Wales TUC, the Welsh Development Agency and the chairman of the West Glamorgan County Council Education Committee.

Tourism is big business in Wales and the latest figures show that in one year more than eleven million British visitors spent more than \$450m in the Principality. An estimated £50m more was spent by 400,000 foreign visitors.

The splendid natural scenery and magnificent castles continue to get like magnets, but the changing pattern of holidays is causing concern to hoteliers. Research carried out by the Wales Tourist Board points to a continuing and worrying decline in the market for the traditional holiday of seven or fourteen nights in seaside hotels.

A report by the board stated: "We cannot put all the blame on factors outside our control. Wales has allowed its share of long holidays to slip by, failing to increase spending on publicity and promotion at a time when there was increased competition from within Britain and abroad."

"Nor was tourism helped by the impression that Wales was no longer a welcoming country. Acts of vandalism or protest seen by visitors in holiday areas, including the burning of cottages and the daubing of road signs, strengthened that view."

Being cruel to be kind, the Board has criticized local authorities and the trade for not spending enough on publicity. Wales, the Board maintains, is losing hundreds of millions of pounds of revenue because the country is not being properly promoted.

The overriding complaint made by visitors to Wales is the lack of facilities and things to do when the weather is bad. It is a myth that it always rains in Wales, although when the high mountains catch the clouds on their western edge the results can be pretty spectacular.

Wet Sundays in Wales are now far less miserable for the tourist, for, following the latest septennial referendum on the issue, only two small areas prevent public houses from opening on that day.

While some resorts still offer little more than their natural beauty, Rhyl, Rhyl Borough Council has responded magnificently to the demand for more amenities by building at Rhyl a magnificent all-weather sun centre. There, for a reasonable entrance charge, a family can spend a whole day having fun, swimming and surfing in what must be one of the most imaginative ventures in the tourist field in Britain. Last year more than 500,000 people visited it to make it the top tourist attraction in Wales.

Further down the North Wales coast, Llandudno, elegant and peaceful in its sun trap setting has built a modern conference centre to expand its share of the talking trade.

Cardiff, the capital city, has recently joined the major conference league with the opening of the St David's Hall, a fine complex which has as its core a fine auditorium, capable of seating 2,000 people. It has already played host to a national Social Democratic Party conference and the city council hopes that eventually it will attract between ten and twenty conferences a year. In August, Cardiff Castle, itself a marvellous monument, is the stage for the annual searchlight tattoo, a spectacular and colourful pageant which easily rivals the one held at Edinburgh.

Culturally, there are still few greater experiences than hearing a full-blown Welsh male voice choir in full song. These dedicated amateurs continue to thrive and when two mighty choirs clash in competition the contest is as keenly fought as any cup final.



Barry Island: a well established holiday resort.

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LANGUAGE

The Welsh Not in reverse

After lying empty and forlorn for 20 years, the tiny hidden village of Nant Gwrtheyrn on the Lleyn Peninsula, in the Welsh heartland of Gwynedd, has been revived and rebuilt into a study centre for the Welsh language. Its renovation from the ruins of derelict cottages has become a symbol for the language itself. Almost submerged by the policies and poor culture of the 1950s and 1960s, defenders of the language have staged a counter-punching fight back to ensure its position as the strongest of the old Celtic tongues.

But if battles have been won, the war for the future of *yr hen iaith* (the old language) still rages, albeit at a much reduced rate, and the number of speakers is declining. Only 500,000 people now speak Welsh and they are to be found primarily in the west of the principality, which was largely bypassed by the effects of the debilitating industrial revolution.

Engulfed by a powerful neighbour with an international tongue, it is surprising that Welsh has survived at all. Parliaments, aided more often than not by Welsh members, decreed that the language should die and instituted measures to bury it. The most emotive was the Welsh Not, the board which was hung around the neck of any child heard speaking the language during the school day. The last to wear it was thrashed. The fact that children in some schools in Wales are now gently reprimanded if they are heard speaking English indicates dramatically how the wheel is turning.

Among the vast majority of monoglot English-speaking people there is a strong caucus who maintain they are discriminated against because of their inability to speak Welsh. In Gwynedd, recently parents complained against the county council's declared policy of making all school children bilingual.

Their protest was led by English parents who have settled in Wales and the growing influx of families from across Offa's Dyke into the Welsh area is creating a growing friction. At its most extreme, the fight to preserve the language and culture has led to the burning of holiday homes, and more than 50 of them have now been attacked. The Welsh Language Society, which dissociates itself from the arson, claims Welsh communities are undermined by outsiders who buy cottages at prices local people cannot afford.

The Welsh Language Society, which has just celebrated its twentieth anniversary, has embarked on a new campaign to compel education authorities to make better provision for bilingual education. At present, each of the eight authorities has its own policies and the society argues, a new board should be established to strengthen Welsh medium education throughout the land.

Crude research by the society estimates that such a body would require funding at an annual rate of £30m, a sum which in the present economic climate seems wildly optimistic.

In any event Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales has said that such a body would be "counter-productive".

During his term of office, Mr Edwards has had much first hand experience of the wrath of the language zealots. His car has been smashed and personal abuse heaped on him by extremists. In spite of that, he has managed to secure more money for Welsh education and voluntary organisations than the sums given by previous administrations and has publicly stated his commitment to the language.

The single biggest breakthrough in the fight for the survival of the language occurred last November when S4C, the Welsh language television station, was launched in Cardiff.

In spite of the establishment of the channel, regarded by many as the ultimate anchor for the language, the fight will continue. The Welsh Language Society plans another campaign against what it perceives to be the weaknesses of the 1967 Welsh Language Act which gave the language equal validity in courts of law with English. According to society members all official documents should be available in both languages as a matter of course. The battles and efforts to save the tongue have been impressive but the outcome of the war remains uncertain. It is a fight that only the Welsh can win, for without their commitment no amount of government aid or subsidised television can prevent the slow decline of their language.

Cardiff is also the home of the Welsh National Opera Company, whose scintillating performances have been acclaimed throughout the world. The City's culture is completed by fine theatres, where shows are often performed before they go on for a West End run.

Many of the performances are backed by the Welsh Arts Council, which treads a precarious course between giving assured value for money through the presentation of tried and trusted favourites while venturing occasionally into the realms of experimental theatre.

Its critics maintain that it does not give sufficient encouragement to Welsh writers. However, its support of Yr Academi Gymreig (The Welsh Academy), which promotes poetry and literature and has funded many workshops to encourage new writers, may indicate otherwise.

As a whole, Wales - weather, waris and all - provides an astonishing range of leisure and cultural activities for the tourist. From the sandy beaches of Cardigan Bay to the born-again valleys, its range of holidays ranks with any to be found elsewhere in Britain.

T. J.

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24 new companies make it a record month for Wales.

The number of businesses choosing to settle in Wales hit an all-time peak in February. Most of the newcomers are in the high-technology sector.

A spokesman for the Welsh Development Agency said, "We are delighted to welcome these recent arrivals."

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Bid for Bilton falters

boards was 133p - a premium of 73p in first time dealings and valuing the company at £2.5m. By the close the shares had settled at 131p. Mr Morley said he was pleased to see the market judging the company as a commercial enterprise.

Overshadowed by Miss World's debut was first time dealings in Bensons Crisps. First time dealings of the shares on the Unlisted Securities Market saw a premium of 33p over the placing price of 68p.

It looks as though Mr. Michael Ashcroft's Kean & Scott wants to get a full quotation as soon as possible. The United Securities Markets company has just completed a successful bid for the furniture group Alpine Holdings.

In electricals little Arlen Electrical jumped 15p to 30p buoyed up by hopes of lucrative orders for its new starter motor from the Hanover Trade Fair.

Mr. Afshur Levy, chairman, returned to the market yesterday. His talk was again good for the stock. It rose 10p on Banks Hovis McDougall at 63p. S & W Berisford held 15 per cent of the shares and is thought to be poised to sell its stake to another bidder.

only £7m less than last year's figure of £348m. As a result the chartists reckon the whole sector is worthy of a buy including Consolidated Gold Fields 12p to 539p and Charter Consolidated 7p lower at 243p.

Shares of Fidelity Radio jumped 10p to 180p last night after the group had unveiled its new cordless telephone at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. Already it has received orders from British Telecom. Last year Fidelity reduced losses from £3m to £245,000.

One of the highlights of yesterday's session was the market debut of Mr Eric Morley's Miss World Group. Brokers Schaverein placed 810,000 shares, or 42 per cent of the company, at 60p with various institutions. The first price quoted on the jobbers' board was 60p.

offer from Trust the battle looks like a first round knockout for Bilton. Shares of Trust closed 1p lower at 83p.

That old bid favourite, Associated Fisheries, is back on investors' shopping lists this week closing 3p up yesterday at a new high of 67p. Word is the group has been presented with a bid of 120p a share. Last night the company was unavailable for comment.

Meanwhile, the latest cut in bank base rates of $\frac{1}{2}$ point to 10 per cent was discounted by the market as share prices spent a quiet time for most of the day, before a late burst of support from Wall Street saw prices close at their best levels of the day.

Blue chips were again singled out for attention including ICI 10p up at a new high of 425p,

after yesterday's article in *The Times* on brokers Wood Mackenzie's upgrading of profits. The Americans also came in for Beechams a similar figure higher at 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ p and Glaxo up $\frac{1}{2}$ p. The FT Index closed 1.8 higher at 688.9.

Gilts spent another lacklustre day with the new top 10.5 per cent 1989 managing to close with a gain to $\frac{1}{2}$ p on the partly paid price of £25 when dealing began. Less than half the £1.000m of stock offered was applied for.

The rest of the market recovered earlier falls of $\frac{1}{4}$ to close unchanged on the day as the pound gained 0.4 cents to \$1.5405 on the foreign exchange.

The better than expected full year figures from Rio Tinto-Zinc gave a filip to the rest of the mining finance sector with the shares climbing 40p to 584p after achieving pretax profits

Fund has announced it sold nearly 1 million shares out of its total holding of 4.6 million shares (12.38 per cent of the equity) at about 274p earlier this week. Dealers said this reflected the belief among many institutions that the bid would fail and they would cash in their hands while the going was good.

Yesterday shares of Percy Bilton were unchanged at 288p - some 35p above Trust's original shares, convertible and cash offer worth 255p a share.

However, Mr Peter Jones, chairman of the much smaller Trust Securities, was undeterred. "I am extremely confident still. There is still no sign of the rumoured revaluation from Rilton and perhaps the institutions are now lacking confidence that there will be one", he said.

Investors have until next week to decide whether to accept the bid, but with still no sign of a white knight or higher

Blue chips were again singled out for attention including ICI 10p up at a new high of 426p,

the mining finance sector with the shares climbing 40p to 584p after achieving pretax profits

company, a Pre-merger figure, a Special payment, a Bid price, a Capital distribution, a Ex rights, a Ex scrip or share split, a Tax free, a Price adjusted for late dealings... No significant data.

135

Investment
and
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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 688.9 up 1.8
FT 100 82.11, down 0.13
FT All Share 163.70, up 2.68
Bargains: 25, 167
Tring Hall USM Index:
171.2, up 0.7New York: Dow Jones Average
(midday) 1,154.02, down
2.82

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5405, up 40pts
Index 82.4, down 0.4
M 3.7600
F 11.2600
N 367.27
S 122.7, up 0.3
2.4395, up 20pts

INTEREST RATES

Money rates:
90 days 10-10 1/2
month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4
to currency rates:
north dollar 9 1/2-10 1/4
north DM 5 1/2-5 3/4
north FF 13 1/2-13 3/4
G.D. Fixed Rate Sterling
and Finance Scheme IV
average reference rate for
week period March 2 to April
1983 inclusive: 10.874 per
cent

PRICE CHANGES

Jettor 38p, up 8p
uter Elec 14p, up 8p
BK (H) 70p, up 8p
Janssen 35p, up 4p
Energy Serv 43p, up 4 1/2
entice 10p, up 1p
KO 73p, down 8p
Jollies 24p, down 2p
lockware 38p, down 3p
tharshall 43p, down 3p
IP Kent 48p, down 3p
Edward Meach 18p, down 1p

TODAY

Interim: Advest, Berry
Trust, Linread Lowland Invest-
ment Trust, Ulster Television,
Finalist Blackwood Hodge, De
Beers Consolidated Mines,
Dewhurst Dent, Hunting Pet-
roleum Services, Layland Plant
& Wallpaper, F. Miller Textiles,
Scottish Television
Economic statistics: Index
of industrial production (Feb-
ruary, provisional), usable steel
production (March).Takeover blow
for BassishawThe Takeover Panel has
turned down an attempt by
Bassishaw to offer loanstock as
an alternative to its 130p bid for
UDS. It is now asking UDS
shareholders not to accept the
higher Bassishaw bid until they
have seen its offer document to
be published on Monday. It will
ask if shareholders are prepared
to sacrifice jobs in the high
street for the sake of 3 1/2p,
the difference between the two cash
offers.
Bassishaw's offer has been
extended for another 14 days.
Both Bassishaw and two dis-
senting UDS directors have put
out statements criticizing the
UDS board's decision to recom-
mend the lower Bassishaw offer.● OCTOPUS VALUE: Octo-
pus Publishing Group will be
worth at least £30.1m when it
becomes a public company later
this month. The highly regarded
publisher of glossy, full-colour
books is being brought to the
market by way of a tender offer
with a minimum price of 27.5p
by N.M. Rothschild.
Investors' notebook, page 19● TAKEOVER HITCH:
Kwik-Fit attempt to sort out the
potential conflict of interest
with Crest International by
taking it over has foundered
again. Although Kwik-Fit's
merchant bank, Samuel Montagu,
said it had established bid-
ding satisfactory to the insti-
tutional shareholders of Kwik-
Fit, the National Association of
Pension Funds has for the
second time voiced its misgiv-
ings. So there is the unusual
situation of a bid acceptable to
the bidder's shareholders, but
not the offer's.● PROFITS RECORD: Pre-
tax profits of West Midlands-
based Ash and Lacy have
topped for the first time £3m. In
1982, they expanded by 31 per
cent to £3.07m. Mr J. F.
Vernon, the chairman, tells
shareholders that this was
achieved in spite of a recession
"comparable in its severity to
that between the two world
wars". The total dividend,
gross, is being boosted from 20p
to 25.71p a share.Wall St
stocks
down
5 pointsNew York (AP Dow Jones) -
Wall Street stocks pulled back
from an early advance yester-
day.The Dow Jones industrial
average fell about five points to
1,151 after starting the session
with a gain of 1.5.Advancing issues lead over
declines narrowed to five-to-
four.International Business Ma-
chines fell 1/4 at 107 1/2. It
reported a rise in first quarter
net to \$1.62 a share from \$1.33
and the stock fell 1 1/2 before
recovering.General Motors rose 1/4 at
62 1/2. General Electric fell 1/4 at
107 1/2. American Telephone &
Telegraph rose 1/4 at 65.
Honeywell off 1/4 at 92 1/2.
International Paper fell 1 1/2 to
53 1/2. Exxon off 1/4 to 32 1/2. General
Dynamics fell 1/4 to 44 and
Lockheed rose 2 1/2 to 111.Fleetwood at 24 1/2 was up 1/4.
Aydin at 53 1/2 was up 1/4.
Motorola at 108 1/2 was down 1/4.
Whitpool at 33 1/2 was up 1/4.
Teletron at 146 1/2 was down 1/4.
Warner Communications at
25 1/2 was unchanged. Hewlett
Packard at 79 1/2 was down 1/4.Rio Tinto
shares
jump 40p

By Sally White

Profits of Rio Tinto-Zinc, the
international mining and indus-
trial group, were higher than
had been expected last year. At
the pretax level, profits dipped
to £341m from £348m and the
net profit attributable to share-
holders was higher at £103.5m
against £102.3m.But the company has sounded
a note of caution: "While there
are some signs that limited
recovery is beginning to appear
in a number of Western
economies, most importantly
in the United States, it is not
yet broadly based."The company says that
supplies of basic raw materials
tend to experience the impact
of changes in business activity
rather late in the cycle and it is
likely to be towards the end of
this year, or even in 1984,
before the full benefits of any
economic revival are realized
in terms of the group's
operating results.But the shares rose sharply,
up 40p at 584p.Group sales rose from
£3,020m to £3,680m. The
inclusion of 240,000 from sales
of Tuzen Holdings and Thes.
W. Ward accounted for most
of this increase. Borax and
Hamersley, the iron-ore inter-
ests, and Rossing, the uranium
company, achieved signifi-
cantly higher sales.

Investors' notebook, page 19

London Brick sell-off

By Jeremy Warner

London Brick had sold for
£3m a business it bought 10
years ago for £7m to London
and Midland Industries, the
industrial services and engineer-
ing company.The two groups yesterday
concluded arrangements for
London and Midland to buy
Banbury and Garsden, which
makes pre-fabricated home
extensions, garages and green-
houses.London and Midland already
owns Compton Buildings,
which is in the same business
and is one of the group's more
successful subsidiaries.Announcing annual profits
slightly ahead of the £15m it
forecast at the time of its bid for
rival brick maker Istock
Johnsen, London Brick said
yesterday that it was selling
Banbury because it has been
unprofitable.

Kissinger urges overhaul of monetary system

Call for new Bretton Woods

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Dr Henry Kissinger, the
former US Secretary of State,
and a group of influential
European and American officials
will convene a special
meeting in Washington next
month to try to persuade the
Reagan Administration to agree
to an overhaul of the inter-
national monetary system.Dr Kissinger has said repeatedly
that the present system of
floating exchange rates has been
a disaster which has created
permanent economic instabil-
ity.He and other like-minded
officials, including Otto Graf
von Lambsdorff, the Western
German finance minister, in-
tend to press the Adminis-
tration to agree to a new
international conference on
exchange rates.The group will also attempt
to persuade important members
of President Reagan's cabinet
who have been invited to the
conference on May 17 that the
issue of exchange rates should
be a priority item at the
Williamsburg economic summit
on May 28.The Kissinger initiative is
one of several recent attempts
by US officials and privateThe world's oil market
appears to have stabilized, and
a third oil price shock is
unlikely, Mr Nigel Lawson, the
Secretary of State for Energy,
said yesterday.In what amounts to the first
full defence of the Govern-
ment's recent intervention to
prevent further sharp falls in the
price of North Sea oil, Mr
Lawson said that, as a leading
trading nation and oil exporter,
Britain was uniquely placed to
determine where the Western
world's best interests on oil
prices lay.While oil prices would
inevitably be determined by the
balance of supply and demand,
Britain had an interest in
smoothing out the imperfec-
tions of the market."We have sufficient experi-
ence of the effects of oil shocks,
of the cost of economic
adjustment, to recognize the
desirability of doing what we
can to avoid unnecessary
fluctuations and to achieve
equilibrium by the smoothest
possible route," he said."The British national oil
corporation's pricing proposals
have had this objective very
much in mind. Not that BNOC
can stop North Sea prices fromgoing where the market takes
them, but it can allow time for
the market's expectations to
settle down, reducing the danger
of an initial overreaction and so
minimizing unnecessary disrup-
tion."The Government's pressure on
oil companies not to push too
hard for further reductions in
the North Sea price for fear of
wrecking last month's Organi-
zation of Petroleum Exporting
Countries pricing agreement is
acknowledged to have helped to
restore some stability to the
turbulent market.The most closely watched
measure of the money supply,
sterling M3, rose by 0.9 per cent
in the four weeks to mid-March.
The Bank of England confirmed
yesterday. This was the biggest
monthly increase since last
autumn.An equally rapid or more
rapid increase is expected in the
April period because of the
surge in government borrowing
in March revealed on Wednes-
day.City analysts estimate that
over the target period as a whole

Britain 'uniquely placed' to prevent market falls says minister

Lawson defends intervention to
stabilize world oil prices

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The market does, indeed,
appear to have stabilized," Mr
Lawson said. "If so, it is hard to
see a third oil shock of the
nature of either of those we
experienced in the Seventies."The 1973 price rise was a
"once for all" adjustment,
whereas the 1979-80 increase
resulted from a buyers' panic,
from which lessons have been
learned, he said.One company which has still
not accepted the new prices
proposed by the British
National Oil Corporation is
Britoil, controversially priva-tized last November. Mr Philip
Shelbourne, Britoil's chairman,
confirmed yesterday that Britoil
was still in discussions with
BNOC about the corporation's
right to backdate its new prices
to the beginning of February.While welcoming the Bud-
get's tax concessions, Mr Shel-
bourne repeated his call for all
North Sea oil taxes to be
replaced by corporation tax
alone to bring the oil industry
into line with other industries.Mr Shelbourne said at the
first annual results press confer-
ence since privatization, that hewas optimistic about the com-
pany's likely share performance
in the medium-term.Britoil confirmed it is in
discussions with Amerasia Hess
and other United States oil
companies about acquiring
American exploration and
production interests. The com-
pany also disclosed that a £80m
drilling rig being built at Scott
Lithgo was running at least a
year behind schedule.● Mr Hamish Gray, Energy
Minister, said yesterday a
substantial number of applica-
tions may soon be forth-
coming to develop North Sea
oil and gas fields. "We could be
on the verge of a flood of
applications," he said.Six applications are already
under discussion, three of which
date from after last month's
Budget which increased incen-
tives to develop marginal fields.A second batch of five
applications, mainly to develop
oil fields, is expected before the
end of the year, he said.● Sellers of the key North Sea
Brent oil yesterday raised their
quotes on the European spot
market in Rotterdam to just
over the official price of \$30 a
barrel, oil traders said.

Money growth likely to exceed target

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

As a result, money growth in
the first two months of the
target period which began in
February and runs to April next
year is likely to nudge or top the
7 to 11 per cent band.This has been one factor
behind the Bank of England's
reluctance to sanction an early
cut in bank base lending rates,
which might have been quickly
followed by pressure for more.City analysts estimate that
over the target period as a wholemoney growth can be contained
within the 7 to 11 per cent
range, even if public borrowing
overshoots the £2,000m target
for 1983-4 by up to £2,000m.To stay within the midpoint
of the range, money growth
would have to average 0.75 per
cent in March but the broad
measure of private sector
liquidity, PSL2, which includes
building society deposits, in-
creased by 1.3 per cent.ABP beats
profit
forecast

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Associated British Ports
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £5.5m (£10.3m loss)
Turnover £152m (£128m)
Net dividend nil
Share price 159pAssociated British Ports has
had a good first quarter
although the level of trade has
not shown any significant
improvement yet. Mr Keith
Stuart, the chairman, said
yesterday as the group
announced 1982 profits just
ahead of forecast.Compared with the £5.4m
pretax forecast at the time of the
heavily-oversubscribed offer for
sale in February, ABP turned in
£5.5m.Allowing for changes in the
group's capital structure since
the year-end and new arrange-
ments with British Steel, the
underlying profit after £3.6m of
severance payments was £8.9m
last year.Sotheby's seeks a
better suitor

By Our Financial Staff

The formal offer document
detailing the terms of the
£60.6m bid by two New York
financiers and art collectors for
Sotheby's Parke Bernet was
dispatched yesterday to the
company's shareholders amid
growing speculation in the stock
market that Sotheby's will not
be able to find a more
acceptable suitor.Sotheby's is expected to
respond next week to the
opening of the formal bid
proceedings with a defence
document which is likely to
predict a return to profits of
more than £1m in the year to
August.Yesterday's 520p a share
offer document from Mr Mar-
shall Cogan and Mr Stephen
Swid, attempts to cast doubt on
the threat by the company's 133
art experts that they will resign
if the two Americans gain
control."We are confident that these
professionals, whom we regardas essential to the revitalization
of Sotheby's, would in the
event find that we would create
an excellent managerial en-
vironment in which to work."They added: "We trust that,
upon further reflection, the
directors and experts will not
take any action that might harm
Sotheby's. That the directors,
upon mature reflection, will
recommend the offer."Mr Gordon Branton, Sotheby
chairman, pledged himself to
finding an alternative solution
to the company's predicament.Mr Graham Llewellyn, chief
executive, who has been cau-
tioned by the Takeover Panel
for the way he has condemned
the American bid, said: "What
really sticks in the gut about
all this is that having done all
the soul-destroying restructur-
ing of the last year, these two
Americans have come along to
try and reap the rewards. We
bitterly resent this approach."

CLERICAL MEDICAL 1982

"Total new premium income
reached a record £70 million,
75% higher than in 1981."

Sir Douglas Morpeth, Chairman

Principal points from the Chairman's Statement

"The figures for individual business were good. New ordinary life annual
premiums grew by 50%... new premiums paid to individual pension arrangements
increased by 82%...""The overall increase in new premiums was achieved despite a decrease in
new annual premiums to Group Pension Contractors... money received as single
premiums to group pension schemes showed a substantial increase, however, largely due to
the highly successful launch of the Society's Managed Funds.""In 1983, of particular importance will be the changes in the method
by which tax relief is allowed on private mortgages and in the way Building
Societies calculate payments due to them. The effect of these changes
is to make the repayment of a mortgage by means of endowment
insurance more attractive in the short term while preserving
the longer term advantages that have been apparent
for many years.""We do not think it likely that 1983
will see any significant recovery of the group
pensions market but we expect an
increasing flow of new premium
income from individual pension
arrangements; here, our recently
introduced Executive Investment
Pension Plan... is proving to be a market
leader."

Managed Funds

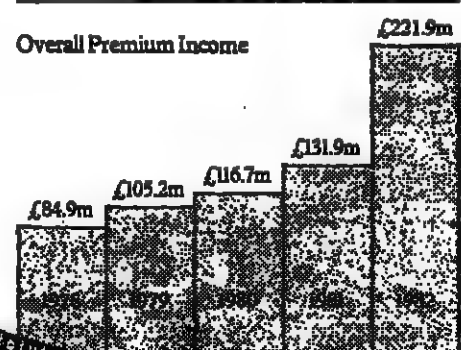
"We also look for continued
growth for our Managed Funds which we
introduced at the beginning of 1982. This pooled
investment management service is ideally
suited to pension fund trustees who seek a more
direct investment approach than is offered by an
insured contract.""Two investment funds were offered at
the outset, a Mixed Fund and a Cash Fund, and the success
of the new venture has enabled us to introduce a further
five specialty funds from the beginning of 1983."The two Managed Funds were launched with
unit offer prices of 100, and by the end of the year the offer price
of the Mixed Fund had moved to 140.2 and of the Cash Fund
to 115.3, results which put both funds amongst the top
performers of 1982.""Although one year is too short a period over which to
judge a pension funds investment performance, this result augurs well
when seen alongside the established performance of Pension Fund
Management, our service for individual portfolios, which once again produced good
results in 1982 and whose record since its commencement in January 1974 is, we believe,
unsurpassed by any other investment management team."

Commission

"The Society, which depends on the impartial advice of independent
intermediaries for the introduction of new policyholders, takes the view that an industry-wide
understanding on maximum rates of commission is essential for the continued health of the
British life assurance market, and we are working with a number of other offices to
bring this about."

A copy of the Annual Report & Accounts is available on request from the Secretary.

-TRADITIONALLY, GREAT PERFORMERS-



Clerical Medical

To: The Secretary,
FREEPOST,
Clerical Medical & General Life Assurance
Society, 15 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4XP.
Telephone: 01-930 5474.
I would like details of your policies for:-

☐ Life Assurance ☐ Permanent Health Insurance
☐ Pensions ☐ Health Insurance

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

TT1548A

دكان من الدخان

Industrial notebook

The cheap petrol era trickles away

Why is petrol still so cheap? In a week when pump prices have been raised by up to 14p a gallon, one of the largest increases in living memory, the question might seem unnecessarily provocative. Yet it deserves to be asked, even though - indeed, particularly because - world oil prices are now falling.

This has nothing to do with the profitability or otherwise of the oil companies, nor is it about the wholly admirable competitive pressures which have sent pump prices fluctuating up and down so furiously over the past 18 months. It is a question of energy policy.

The case for raising the tax on petrol by a significant factor is almost as strong as any such move would be unpopular. But if Britain is to make any pretence that it is interested in promoting energy conservation, it is eventually going to have to tackle the country's pro-car lobby head on. Those of us who are members of the lobby should, nonetheless, feel free to fight any such move with vigour.

The figures which so graphically describe how the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has failed to cure the British people's love affair with the motor car, are worth recounting. Since 1973, despite a near five-fold increase in the real price of crude oil, the price of petrol in real terms has gone up by no more than 25 per cent, less before you take this week's increases into account.

Largely because of this, petrol consumption has continued to grow nearly every year while oil demand as a whole has dropped sharply. The only exceptions to this trend were in the two years after the first trauma of the 1973 oil price shock, and in 1981, when the Chancellor took his courage in his hands and whacked up petrol duty by 20p a gallon. Both these deviations proved short-lived.

Since 1966, petrol's share of oil demand has gone up from 18 to 32 per cent, and while motorists have become sensitive to differences in pump prices offered by competing petrol stations, they have not stopped buying the product

itself - or started worrying too much how efficiently they use it.

It would clearly be absurd to deny that higher prices have had significant effects on car sales, and on the size and efficiency of engines, as Sir Michael Edwards, for one, would happily admit. Yet there is still a long way to go.

A recent report by the Policy Studies Institute, for example, found that since 1973, despite the best endeavours of Opec, the number of cars in Britain has actually increased by 9 per cent, while the average mileage of each car, both new and old, has also gone up by 6 per cent. All the gains in energy efficiency have, therefore, been more than offset by increased consumption and car ownership.

In another intriguing statistical series, the institute also found that in 1981 it took the average wage earner 24 minutes to earn the cost of a gallon of petrol, exactly the same amount of time it took in 1970. All the recent anecdotal evidence from the United States, and in Britain, about renewed customer interest in larger cars supports the view that the conservation signals in the price of a gallon of petrol are still too feeble.

By raising petrol duty sharply, restoring (some of) the sensible price advantage of diesel over petrol, and by making real terms increases on company cars, the Government has done perhaps rather more than one might have expected, given its natural anti-public transport inclinations. But with oil prices falling, the need for further duty increases on petrol to provide a proper incentive to conservation and efficiency is greater than ever before.

Obstacles to this course there will be plenty, and it is too much to hope for any action before the election. But then, as Edmund Burke, that one time favourite Tory philosopher, said: "To tax and to please, no more than to love and to be wise, is not given to men". Motorists should enjoy their cheap petrol while it lasts.

Jonathan Davis

Clive Cookson reports on how Xerox's profits fightback has an Eastern flavour

Copier king challenges Japanese



make it for sale worldwide, including America.

At the top of the new range, the 1075 (up to £27,500) was developed mainly in the United States and will initially be imported from there to Europe, though Venray will also make it in due course.

Although the Rank Organization has owned 49 per cent of Rank Xerox since its formation in 1956, Mr Orr-Ewing stressed that it is run just as if it were a wholly owned subsidiary of Xerox.

Rank representatives sit on the main Rank Xerox board, but they play no part in the management. Mr Orr-Ewing declines to comment on the current uncertainties about the future of the Rank Organization.

The history of the copier industry is a classic example of what happens when a monopoly loses its protection. While there is some justice in the critics' claim that Xerox failed to prepare properly for the Japanese onslaught, no company could have been expected to keep an exclusive grip on such a lucrative and fast-growing business after the patent thicket was removed.

The 1020 and 1035 were both designed by Fuji Xerox. But the British factory at Micheland, Gloucestershire, will manufacture them for sale in what the company calls the "Rank Xerox world", that is everywhere except the Americas (Xerox territory) and Japan.

The mid-level 1045 copier (price about £5,000) was developed in Britain at the Engineering Group Headquarters at Welwyn Garden City. The Dutch plant at Venray will

Shares of the photocopier market are hard to estimate because companies are not prepared to give away sales figures to their competitors. Xerox and Rank Xerox probably take 40 to 50 per cent of the industry's total revenues - including service and supplies as well as sales and rental of the actual machines. Their large installed base of high-volume copiers means more than half the world's plain paper copiers are still "Xeroxes".

The market looks very different when you count the number of new machines sold. In those terms, Xerox's share may have fallen below 10 per cent - behind not only Canon, but three or four other Japanese suppliers.

Canon, leader of the Japanese pack, announced its NP copying system in 1968 as the world's first plain paper alternative to xerography. But it did not launch a major export drive until the mid-1970s. Although Canon claims that its technology owes nothing to Xerox, it waited until the main Xerox patents expired before entering the market.

Canon's breakthrough to mass sales was not achieved until its first cheap low-volume machine, the NP200, was launched in 1978. Now Canon also builds copiers outside Japan. The company has established itself in California and West Germany. About 30 per cent of the machines it sells in Britain are imported from the German plant in Giessen.

Rank Xerox's pretax profits peaked at £316m in 1977. And the fall became steeper last year with the recession; the company

managed only £179m in 1982. (The complexity of the cost and profit-sharing arrangements between Xerox, Rank and Fuji leave room for confusion; these figures are given before deducting the Xerox Corporation's charges for research and development expenditure; they include the Rank Xerox share of Fuji Xerox profits).

Mr Orr-Ewing warns that because of London costs, the 10 Series will not bring Rank Xerox any financial benefit this year. "It will be in 1984 that the chickens come home to roost in the financial sense," he says.

The Xerox companies are spending enough on copier research and development - about \$400m (£266.6m) a year or 70 per cent of their total research and development budget - to remain the industry's technological leaders. (That is about five times as much as Canon's expenditure on copier R & D.) But even the best products cannot save Xerox without a simultaneous transformation of the manufacturing and marketing operations to meet the Japanese challenge.

Rank Xerox has been increasing manufacturing productivity rapidly over the past three years. Employment in the Micheland factory is already down to 2,800 from about 4,800 in 1980, and a further cut announced last month will reduce the workforce there to 2,300 by the end of this summer.

The redundancies have been made worse by a shift in demand away from large and expensive copiers whose construction is relatively labour intensive.

There is an explosion at the bottom end of the market. Britain's population of photo

copiers is expected to grow from 200,000 in 1980 to 450,000 by 1983. This makes it impossible (or at least immensely expensive) for Rank Xerox to rely on its traditional practice of selling direct to corporate customers. The company is reaching new customers, like small businesses, self-employed professionals, schools and clubs, through a combination of retail stores, agents, telephone and direct mail marketing.

Analysts of the photocopier industry are impressed by Xerox's various moves to fight back against the Japanese. "The sleeping giant has certainly woken up," according to Miss Monica Camahort, who manages Dataquest's California-based copying and duplicating industry service.

But no one will predict confidently that Xerox will halt, let alone reverse, the slide in its share of worldwide copying

An explosion at the bottom end of market

revenues. There is too much concern about the growing threat from American competitors, notably Kodak, at the most lucrative top end of the market where Xerox is overwhelmingly dominant, and from the Japanese moving into the mid-price sector.

In fact Xerox could afford a gradual decline in its share if the total market grows as fast as forecast. Dataquest expects worldwide revenues to increase from \$22,800m (£15,200m) in 1982 to \$49,600m in 1987 (about a third of that is within Europe).

Xerox has also invested heavily, and so far unprofitably, in electronic office automation. But over 80 per cent of its business still consists of "putting marks on paper", as Mr Orr-Ewing puts it. Paper will give way gradually to electronic media for long-term information storage, but the present generation will continue to find it more convenient than electronic screens for temporary and mobile display.

Mr Orr-Ewing predicts: "The piece of paper with marks on it is going to be here for my lifetime and, I suspect, for yours, too."

The Japanese Competitors

COMPANY	SHARE OF UK MARKET
Canon	15
Sharp	12
Mitsubishi	10
Minolta	10
Uchiyama	9
Nashua	6
Kalle	5
Ricoh	4
Toshiba	3
Panasonic	2

Note: These figures are an approximate indication of each company's percentage of total copier sales during 1982/83, based on unpublished sources.

APPOINTMENTS

Lloyds Bank UK director

Sir Peter Ramsbotham has become a director of the clearing bank board of Lloyds Bank, Lloyds Bank UK Management. He will succeed Lord Beeching, who retires at the annual general meeting of Lloyds Bank UK Management as chairman of the southern regional board of the bank. Sir Peter has retired from his directorship of Lloyds Bank International.

Mr Arthur Holmes has joined the board of Lowndes Lambert Group and Mr Barry Hubert has been appointed a director of Lowndes Lambert UK.

Mr K G Goodman has been appointed managing director and Mr E R C Farmer chairman of Glaxo Export, the newly-formed export company within the Glaxo Group. Mr Goodman was formerly commercial director of the Glaxo subsidiary Glaxochem. Mr Farmer is a member of the board of Glaxo Holdings, the parent company of the Glaxo Group.

Mr Richard Allardice has become chief executive of Wigham Poland Oil & Gas Company.

Mr David W L Solesby has joined the board of Manufacture Hanover Industrial Finance as marketing director.

Mr Dennis O'Connor is named as the new director of product marketing for Apple Computer (UK).

Mr Robin Howard has taken the new post of senior executive assistant to Mr James Gulliver, chairman of Argyll Foods.

Mr Christopher Jones is appointed a non-executive director of the parent company Bassett Foods. Mr Christopher Hughes has become marketing director of the sugar confectionery subsidiary, Geo. Bassett & Co.

Mr Lewis Wilkinson, formerly the Co-operative Bank's assistant general manager (central services), has been appointed general manager (administration).

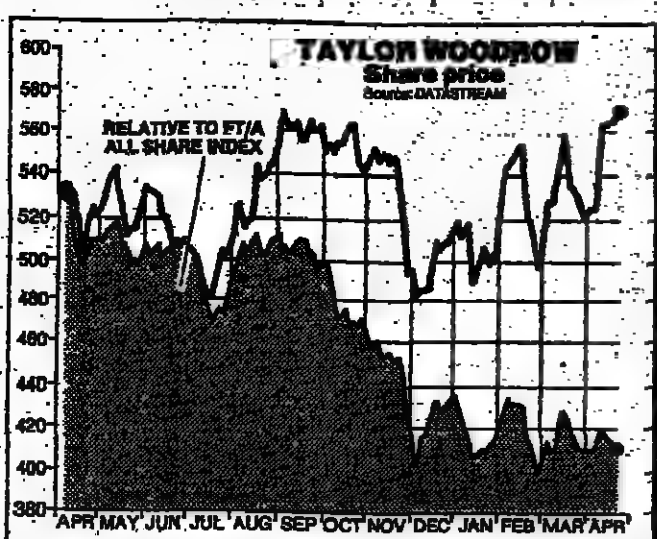
Mr Geoffrey C. Honeyball has been named as company secretary of Drake & Scull Holdings. His appointment follows the resignation of Mr Ronald J. Simpson as finance director and company secretary, who has left the group to take up a position elsewhere.

1982/83	1981/82	1980/81	1979/80	1978/79	1977/78	1976/77	1975/76	1974/75	1973/74	1972/73	1971/72	1970/71	1969/70	1968/69	1967/68	1966/67	1965/66	1964/65	1963/64	1962/63	1961/62	1960/61	1959/60	1958/59	1957/58	1956/57	1955/56	1954/55	1953/54	1952/53	1951/52	1950/51	1949/50	1948/49	1947/48	1946/47	1945/46	1944/45	1943/44	1942/43	1941/42	1940/41	1939/40	1938/39	1937/38	1936/37	1935/36	1934/35	1933/34	1932/33	1931/32	1930/31	1929/30	1928/29	1927/28	1926/27	1925/26	1924/25	1923/24	1922/23	1921/22	1920/21	1919/20	1918/19	1917/18	1916/17	1915/16	1914/15	1913/14	1912/13	1911/12	1910/11	1909/10	1908/09	1907/08	1906/07	1905/06	1904/05	1903/04	1902/03	1901/02	1900/01	1899/00	1898/99	1897/98	1896/97	1895/96	1894/95	1893/94	1892/93	1891/92	1890/91	1889/90	1888/89	1887/88	1886/87	1885/86	1884/85	1883/84	1882/83	1881/82	1880/81	1879/80	1878/79	1877/78	1876/77	1875/76	1874/75	1873/74	1872/73	1871/72	1870/71	1869/70	1868/69	1867/68	1866/67	1865/66	1864/65	1863/64	1862/63	1861/62	1860/61	1859/60	1858/59	1857/58	1856/57	1855/56	1854/55	1853/54	1852/53	1851/52	1850/51	1849/50	1848/49	1847/48	1846/47	1845/46	1844/45	1843/44	1842/43	1841/42	1840/41	1839/40	1838/39	1837/38	1836/37	1835/36	1834/35	1833/34	1832/33	1831/32	1830/31	1829/30	1828/29	1827/28	1826/27	1825/26	1824/25	1823/24	1822/23	1821/22	1820/21	1819/20	1818/19	1817/18	1816/17	1815/16	1814/15	1813/14	1812/13	1811/12	1810/11	1809/10	1808/09	1807/08	1806/07	1805/06	1804/05	1803/04	1802/03	1801/02	1800/01	1799/00	1798/99	1797/98	1796/97	1795/96	1794/95	1793/94	1792/93	1791/92	1790/91	1789/90	1788/89	1787/88	1786/87	1785/86	1784/85	1783/84	1782/83	1781/82	1780/81	1779/80	1778/79	1777/78	1776/77	1775/76	1774/75	1773/74	1772/73	1771/72	1770/71	1769/70	1768/69	1767/68	1766/67	1765/66	1764/65	1763/64	1762/63	1761/62	1760/61	1759/60	1758/59	1757/58	1756/57	1755/56	1754/55	1753/54	1752/53	1751/52	1750/51	1749/50	1748/49	1747/48	1746/47	1745/46	1744/45	1743/44	1742/43	1741/42	1740/41	1739/40	1738/39	1737/38	1736/37	1735/36	1734/35	1733/34	1732/33	1731/32	1730/31	1729/30	1728/29	1727/28	1726/27	1725/26	1724/25	1723/24	1722/23	1721/22	1720/21	1719/20	1718/19	1717/18	1716/17	1715/16	1714/15	1713/14	1712/13	1711/12	1710/11	1709/10	1708/09	1707/08	1706/07	1705/06	1704/05	1703/04	1702/03	1701/02	1700/01	1699/00	1698/99	1697/98	1696/97	1695/96	1694/95	1693/94	1692/93	1691/92	1690/91	1689/90	1688/89	1687/88	1686/87	1685/86	1684/85	1683/84	1682/83	1681/82	1680/81	1679/80	1678/79	1677/78	1676/77	1675/76	1674/75	1673/74	1672/73	1671/72	1670/71	1669/70	1668/69	1667/68	1666/67	1665/66	1664/65	1663/64	1662/63	1661/62	1660/61	1659/60	1658/59	1657/58	1656/57	1655/56	1654/55	1653/54	1652/53	1651/52	1650/51	1649/50	1648/49	1647/48	1646/47	1645/46	1644/45	1643/44	1642/43	1641/42	1640/41	1639/40	1638/39	1637/38	1636/37	1635/36	1634/35	1633/34	1632/33	1631/32	1630/31	1629/30	1628/29	1627/28	1626/27	1625/26	1624/25	1623/24	1622/23	1621/22	1620/21	1619/20	1618/19	1617/18	1616/17	1615/16	1614/15	1613/14	1612/13	1611/12	1610/11	1609/10	1608/09	1607/08	1606/07	1605/06	1604/05	1603/04	1602/03	1601/02	1600/01	1599/00	1598/99	1597/98	1596/97	1595/96	1594/95	1593/94	1592/93	1591/92	1590/91	1589/90	1588/89	1587/88	1586/87	1585/86	1584/85	1583/84	1582/83	1581/82	1580/81	1579/80	1578/79	1577/78	1576/77	1575/76	1574/75	1573/74	1572/73	1571/72	1570/71	1569/70	1568/69	1567/68	1566/67	1565/66	1564/65	1563/64	1562/63	1561/62	1560/61	1559/60	1558/59	1557/58	1556/57	1555/56	1554/55	1553/54	1552/53	1551/52	1550/51	1549/50	1548/49	1547/48	1546/47	1545/46	1544/45	1543/44	1542/43	1541/42	1540/41	1539/40	1538/39	1537/38	1536/37	1535/36	1534/35	1533/34	1532/33	1531/32	1530/31	1529/30	1528/29	1527/28	1526/27	1525/26	1524/25	1523/24	1522/23	1521/22	1520/21	1519/20	1518/19	1517/18	1516/17	1515/16	1514/15	1513/14	1512/13	1511/12	1510/11	1509/10	1508/09	1507/08	1506/07	1505/06	1504/05	1503/04	1502/03	1501/02	1500/01	1499/00	1498/99	1497/98	1496/97	1495/96	1494/95	1493/94	1492/93	1491/92	1490/91	1489/90	1488/89	1487/88	1486/87	1485/86	1484/85	1483/84	1482/83	1481/82	1480/81	1479/80	1478/79	1477/78	1476/77	1475/76	1474/75	1473/74	1472/73	1471/72	1470/71	1469/70	1468/69	1467/68	1466/67	1465/66	1464/65	1463/64	1462/63	1461/62	1460/61	1459/60	1458/59	1457/58	1456/57	1455/56	1454/55	1453/54	1452/53	1451/52	1450/51	1449/50	1448/49	1447/48	1446/47	1445/46	1444/45	1443/44	1442/43	1441/42	1440/41	1439/40	1438/39	1437/38	1436/37	1435/36	1434/35	1433/34	1432/33	1431/32	1430/31	1429/30	1428/29	1427/28	1426/27	1425/26	1424/25	1423/24	1422/23	1421/22	1420/21	1419/20	1418/19	1417/18	1416/17	1415/16	1414/15	1413/14	1412/13	1411/12	1410/11	1409/10	1408/09	1407/08	1406/07	1405/06	1404/05	1403/04	1402/03	1401/02	1400/01	1399/00	1398/99	1397/98	1396/97	1395/96	1394/95	1393/94	1392/93	1391/92	1390/91	1389/90	1388/89	1387/88	1386/87	1385/86	1384/85	1383/84	1382/83	1381/82	1380/81	1379/80	1378/79	1377/78	1376/77	1375/76	1374/75	1373/74	1372/73	1371/72	1370/71	1369/70	1368/69	1367/68	1366/67	1365/66	1364/65	1363/64	1362/63	1361/62	1360/61	1359/60	1358/59	1357/58	1356/57	1355/56	1354/55	1353/54	1352/53	1351/52	1350/51	1349/50	1348/49	1347/48	1346/47	1345/46	1344/45	1343/44	1342/43	1341/42	1340/41	1339/40	1338/39	1337/38	1336/37	1335/36	1334/35	1333/34	1332/33	1331/32	1330/31	1329/30	1328/29	1327/28	1326/27	1325/26	1324/25	1323/24	1322/23	1321/22	1320/21	1319/20	1318/19	1317/18	1316/17	1315/16	1314/15	1313/14	1312/13	1311/12	1310/11	1309/10	1308/09	1307/08	1306/07	1305/06	1304/05	1303/04	1302/03	1301/02	1300/01	1299/00	1298/99	1297/98	1296/97	1295/96	1294/95	1293/94	1292/93	1291/92	1290/91	1289/90	1288/89	1287/88	1286/87	1285/86	1284/85	1283/84	1282/83	1281/82	1280/81	1279/80	1278/79	1277/78	1276/77	1275/76	1274/75	1273/74	1272/73	1271/72	1270/71	1269/70	1268/69	1267/68	1266/67	1265/66	1264/65	1263/64	1262/63	1261/62	1260/61	1259/60	1258/59	1257/58	1256/57	1255/56	1254/55	1253/54	1252/53	1251/52	1250/51	1249/50	1248/49	1247/48	1246/47	1245/46	1244/45	1243/44	1242/43	1241/42	1240/41	1239/40	1238/39	1237/38	1236/37	1235/36	1234/35	1233/34	1232/33	1231/32	1230/31	1229/30	1228/29	1227/28	1226/27	1225/26	1224/25	1223/24	1222/23	1221/22	1220/21	1219/20	1218/19	1217/18	1216/17	1215/16	1214/15	1213/14	1212/13	1211/12	1210/11	1209/10	1208/09	1207/08	1206/07	1205/06	1204/05	1203/04	1202/03	1201/02	1200/01	1199/00	1198/99	1197/98	1196/97	1195/96	1194/95	1193/94	1192/93	1191/92	1190/91	1189/90	1188/89	1187/88	1186/87	1185/86	1184/85	1183/84	1182/83	1181/82	1180/81	1179/80	1178/79	1177/78	1176/77	1175/76	1174/75	1173/74	1172/73	1171/72	1170/71	1169/70	1168/69	1167/68	1166/67	1165/66	1164/65	1163/64	1162/63	1161/62	1160/61	1159/60	1158/59	1157/58	1156/57	1155/56	1154/55	1153/54	1152/53	1151/52	1150/51	1149/50	1148/49	1147/48	1146/47	1145/46	1144/45	1143/44	1142/43	1141/42	1140/41	1139/40	1138/39	1137/38	1136/37	1135/36	1134/35	1133/34	1132/33	1131/32	1130/31	1129/30	1128/29	1127/28	1126/27	1125/26	1124/25	1123/24	1122/23	1121/22	1120/21	1119/20	1118/19	1117/18	1116/17	1115/16	1114/15	1113/14	1112/13	1111/12	1110/11	1109/10	1108/09	1107/08	1106/07	1105/06	1104/05	1103/04	1102/03	1101/02	1100/01	1099/00	1098/99	1097/98	1096/97	1095/96	1094/95	1093/94	1092/93	1091/92	1090/91	1089/90	1088/89	1087/88	1086/87	1085/86	1084/85	1083/84	1082/83	1081/82	1080/81	1079/80	1078/79	1077/78	1076/77	1075/76	1074/75	1073/74	1072/73	1071/72	1070/71	1069/70	1068/69	1067/68	1066/67	1065/66	1064/65	1063/64	1062/63	1061/62	1060/61	1059/60	1058/59	1057/58	1056/57	1055/56	1054/55	1053/54	1052/53	1051/52	1050/51	1049/50	1048/49	1047/48	1046/47	1045/46	1044/45	1043/44	1042/43	1041/42	1040/41	1039/40	1038/39	1037/38	1036/37	1035/36	1034/35	1033/34	1032/33	1031/32	1030/31	1029/30	1028/29	1027/28	1026/27	1025/26	1024/25	1023/24	1022/23	1021/22	1020/21	1019/20	1018/19	1017/18	1016/17	1015/16	1014/15	1013/14	1012/13	1011/12	1010/11	1009/10	1008/09	1007/08	1006/07	1005/06	1004/05	1003/04	1002/03	1001/02	1000/01	999/00	998/99	997/98	996/97	995/96	994/95	993/94	992/93	991/92	990/91	989/90	988/89	987/88	986/87	985/86	984/85	983/84	982/83	981/82	980/81	979/80	978/79	977/78	976/77	975/76	974/75	973/74	972/73	971/72	970/71	969/70	968/69	967/68	966/67	965/66	964/65	963/64	962/63	961/62	960/61	959/60	958/59	957/58	956/57	955/56	954/55	953/54	952/53	951/52	950/51	949/50	948/49	947/48
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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Sally White

Taylor Woodrow in line for rerating

Taylor Woodrow
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £28.5m (24.9m)
Stated earnings 54.7p (49.7p)
Turnover £204m (257.5m)
Net final dividend 14p, mkg 27.85p (22.25p)
Share price 565p, Yield 7 per cent



The rush to discover neglected stocks seems to have missed some of the building contractors. This can be the only reason why Taylor Woodrow is on a prospective multiple that is at least a 25 per cent discount to the market. With the City hoping for £34.5m in 1983, the rating looks way out of line.

Taylor Woodrow's performance shows the continuation of a long period of stagnation. However, the rise in profits from £24.9m to £28.5m show the benefit of the £4m loss elimination from the provision on a Trinidad contract.

Divisional breakdown shows contracting up nearly £3m at £15m, property barely changed at £4.9m, and housing down £1m at £4.9m.

Geographical breakdown gives large rises in Australia and the Far East, a turnaround into £1m profit in the Americas, a slight drop to £7m profit in the Middle East, and £1.3m in Africa, and a worsening of the European loss at £371,000. The United Kingdom dropped very slightly at £16.7m.

The shares have been depressed by the exposure to Nigeria, where the company has been working through its order book. It has been there for long enough to ensure that this

does not reduce its leverage for securing payment.

It was the property backing that secured a premium rating over the market in the past. The asset value is at least £9 a share, and this seems to have been overlooked.

It should be only a matter of time before the price moves to reflect fundamental strengths.

Rio Tinto-Zinc

Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £241m (£248m)
Stated earnings 88.52p (40.42p)
Turnover £2,680m (£3,020m)
Net final dividend 10.5p making 19p (same)
Share price 584p, Yield 3.9 per cent

RTZ took the market by

surprise in a big way - an unusual event in the City given the usual efficiency of corporate communication - with its jump in pretax profits to £241m in the second half, against £100m in the first half.

The reasons given are an increase of £20m from Hamersley (not so much from the company's performance but as a result of RTZ's different accounting treatment), an £11m increase from roasting and a first time contribution from Tunnel and Ward. In addition the fall in RTZ Oraz's profits was very much less than the market had feared.

This year the dividend could benefit from higher prices for metals, and the rise in the share price to 584p, with 17½p a distinct possibility.

Hestair

Hestair
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £2.16m (£1.54m)
Stated earnings 10.1p (8.1p)
Turnover £28.38m (£24.22m)
Net final dividend 2p making 2.25p (2p)
Share price 80p, Yield 7.7p

Pretax profits of Hestair, the commercial vehicles to industrial and office services group, rose by 31 per cent to £2.16m in the year to January and are going to rise further this year, according to Mr David Hargreaves, the chairman.

Through the group produced £4m profits in 1977 and 1978, it is still a remarkably good performance in view of its exposure to the specialist vehicle market.

The group did well in this field to hold the decline in trading profits last year to £714,000, for it is now one of the few profitable commercial chassis businesses in Britain.

Although until recently it was the smallest of the commercial vehicle businesses, Hestair Dennis is now emerging as the biggest with an order book representing seven months' work at £27m - a good £5m more than it has been at any stage in the past.

At 60p, the shares have to be reasonable value on a yield of 7.7 per cent, after the boost in the final dividend, and selling at just 16.5 times fully taxed earnings.

Octopus

With around £3,000m sitting in the City ready to stage new issues, a few lessons have been learned. So Octopus Publishing Group is going public by way of a tender offer with a minimum price of 275p which would value the company at £30.1m.

The minimum price puts Octopus, built up by Mr Paul Hamlyn, on a fully-taxed price-earning ratio of 18.6. But even the minimum tender price shows a hefty premium to net assets of about 98p a share. And as Octopus - with its relationship with Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury and other big retailers - is a unique publisher it is difficult to value.

Guesses about the striking price - the application list closes next Thursday - put it at over 300p; say 10 per cent above the minimum.

Yesterday's offer of 3.1 million shares has been underwritten and represents 20 per cent of the capital but a further 30 per cent of the capital is issued in deferred shares which will not be listed. This follows the splitting of the capital.

Octopus's £773,000 shareholding in TV-am, where Mr Hamlyn is a non-executive director, has been written down to a nominal £1.

Mr Hamlyn will own 63 per cent of the issued shares, and 85 per cent of the deferred shares.

Fifteenth record year for Portals

By Our Financial Staff

Portals Holdings
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £14.8m (£13.3m)
Stated earnings 48p (87.1p)
Turnover £157m (£143m)
Net final dividend 9.75p, making 15.5p (14p)
Share price 675p, up 30p, Yield 2.7%
Dividend payable 1.7.83

Portals has turned in record profits for the fifteenth consecutive year, with a pretax increase from £13.3m to £14.8m. The dividend is up by nearly 11 per cent.

However, the return to a normal tax charge after the exceptionally low levels of earlier years means that earnings per share were well down last year from 67.1p to 46p.

Last year's growth in pretax profits was due partly to the £1.2m rise in net interest receivable to £1.5m.

This was because of higher advance payments on contracts

in the water treatment division. On the trading side, the papermaking division, which makes the banknote paper, edged ahead to 27.7m.

The other main division, water treatment and engineering, incurred losses in the latter activity, but water treatment seems to have held up well despite lower demand from important Middle East markets and profits were up from £5.4m to £5.7m.

Portals is to spend £10m over three years in updating its Hampshire mill. Its United States mill is now on stream, although this will not lift profits until 1984 to 1985 and will probably reduce them this year.

Some improvement is still likely this year to perhaps £15.5m, although on the basis of the present tax charge this would still leave stated earnings about 6p below the stated earnings of 54p in 1980.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Green's Economiser Group
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax loss, £766,000 (£2.81m profit)
Stated earnings (loss) 8.3p (profit, 22.51p)
Turnover, £36.81m (£22.19m)
Net dividend, 2.875p (5.75p)

T. C. Harrison
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £3.0m (£2.88m)
Stated earnings, 13.06p (13.06p)
Turnover, £21.32m (£22.51m)
Net dividend, 8.3p (8.1p)

United Ceramic Industries
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £41,000 (£20,000)
Stated earnings, 2.9p (2.0p)
Turnover, £5.06m (£4.58m)
Net dividend, 3.0p (3.5p)

Wm. Low
Half-year (28 weeks) to 19.3.83
Pretax profit, £1.89m (£1.16m)
Turnover, £58.85m (£53.18m)
Net interim dividend, 2.5p (2.1p)

Beauford Group
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £607,000 (£358,000)
Stated earnings, 11.5p (8.5p)
Turnover, £7.57m (£5.45m)
Net dividend, 3.5p (2.1p)

M. P. Kent
Half-year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £740,000 (£2.98m)
Stated earnings, 1.75p (6.2p)
Turnover, £5.33m (£12.4m)
Net interim dividend, 0.36p (0.36p)

Marine International
Half-year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £1.82m (£1.81m)
Turnover, £20.01m (£18.54m)
Net interim dividend, 1.95p (1.95p)

George Spencer
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax loss, £284,000 (£177,000 loss)
Stated earnings (loss) 8.3p (loss, 3.3p)
Turnover, £11.91m (£12.9m)
Net dividend, nil (nil)

ANNUAL REPORT 1982 Ultramar

ACHIEVEMENT AND EXPANSION

It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report for 1982 which was a good year for Ultramar. We achieved record results with sales revenue of £1,513 million, cash flow from operations of £159 million, profit before taxation of £185 million and a net profit of £104 million. The figures were helped by the relative strength of the US dollar against sterling, since most of our income continues to be in dollars.

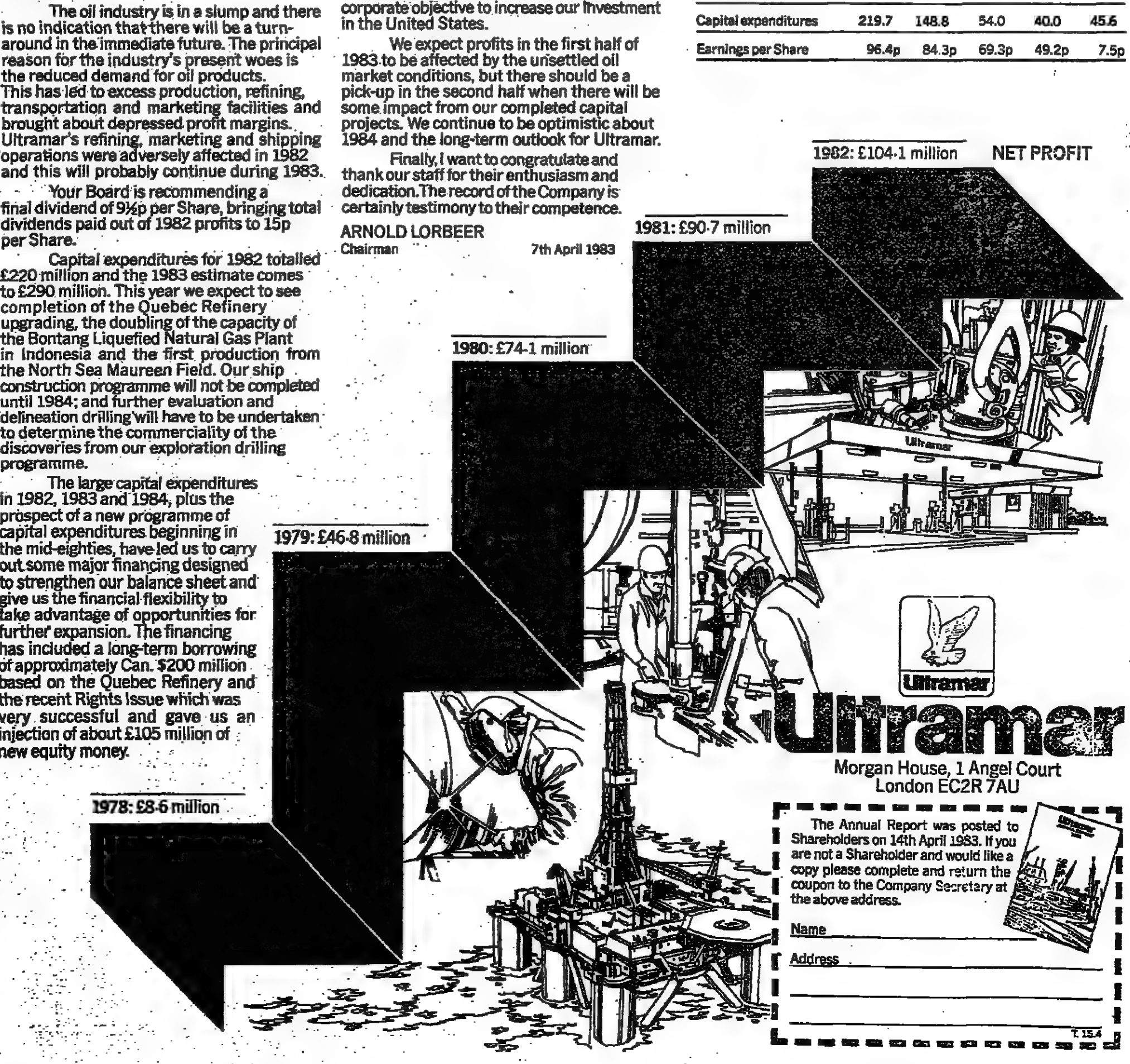
We have agreed in principle with Pittston Company to acquire its oil marketing subsidiary, Pittston Petroleum Inc., which sells approximately 90,000 barrels per day of petroleum products in the North Eastern United States and Eastern Canada. This potential acquisition will provide an extension of our Eastern Canadian refining and marketing operations into the North Eastern United States and is in line with our corporate objective to increase our investment in the United States.


We expect profits in the first half of 1983 to be affected by the unsettled oil market conditions, but there should be a pick-up in the second half when there will be some impact from our completed capital projects. We continue to be optimistic about 1984 and the long-term outlook for Ultramar.

Finally, I want to congratulate and thank our staff for their enthusiasm and dedication. The record of the Company is certainly testimony to their competence.

ARNOLD LORBEER
Chairman
7th April 1983

Financial Highlights (£ million)					
	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978
Sales	1,513.3	1,392.5	939.5	1,001.7	595.1
Cash flow from operations	158.6	136.4	100.5	86.3	31.6
Operating profit before taxation	185.2	180.2	126.3	75.4	37.7
Net profit	104.1	90.7	74.1	45.8	8.6
Capital expenditures	219.7	148.8	54.0	40.0	45.6
Earnings per Share	96.4p	84.3p	69.3p	49.2p	7.5p





Clydesdale Bank

BASE RATE

Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that with effect from 15th April, 1983 its Base Rate for lending is being reduced from 10½% to 10% per annum.

The Annual Report was posted to Shareholders on 14th April 1983. If you are not a Shareholder and would like a copy please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary at the above address.

Name _____

Address _____

T. 15.4

Higher inflation after a Tory victory forecast

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

A re-elected Conservative government would preside over higher inflation, sluggish economic growth and a further increase in unemployment, according to forecasts released yesterday by DRI Europe, the consulting group, released yesterday.

The group, which assumes a Conservative victory in an autumn election, predicts growth of 1.9 per cent this year, rising to 2.4 per cent next year, but subsiding to 1.8 per cent in 1985.

Adult unemployment is expected by the group to rise from 12 per cent of the workforce this year to 13.4 per cent in 1985. Inflation, it says, will rise from an average of 6.2 per cent this year to a peak of just over 9 per cent next spring, with little slackening afterwards.

This is despite the pursuit of tight fiscal policies, which preclude any substantial tax cuts.

Higher import prices, sharp increases in labour costs at home and an end to the temporary effects of interest rate falls and artificially depressed public sector prices will all combine to push up inflation, DRI says.

Higher inflation will restrain growth of real incomes, slowing the rise in economic activity, DRI believes, ruling out a significantly stronger recovery.

The DRI forecasts were presented to a conference on the European Economic Outlook, where Mr Jack Straw, Labour Treasury spokesman, berated Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, for inconsistency on exchange rate policy.

Mr Straw said that after lofty criticism of Labour's devaluation plans, Sir Geoffrey now admitted that the lower pound had boosted competitiveness and improved the economic outlook.

Last-quarter loss hits Morgan Crucible

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Morgan Crucible Year to 31.12.82
Pre-tax profit £4.72m (28.07m)
Statutory profit £3.5m (10.5m)
Turnover £152m (£133m)
Net final dividend 4p, making 7.5p (7.5p)
Share price 109p, up 3p
Dividend payable 15.7.83

Morgan Crucible, the industrial components and materials company, slipped into losses in the final quarter to end the year with pre-tax profits down by 42 per cent to £4.72m. After nine months of the year the group was showing a profit of £5.1m.

However Morgan believes the worst is over and is maintaining its final dividend at 4p to leave the year's payout unchanged at 7.5p.

Sir James Spence, chairman, said that although there was little sign of substantial worldwide economic recovery, the improvements in the United Kingdom and America were encouraging the value of the pound was also helpful since two-thirds of the group's sales were overseas.

"There was a false dawn at this time last year but recent indications are that most economies in which Morgan operates have either stabilized or are improving," Sir James said. He added that this, together with the determination to stay competitive, was why the board decided to hold the dividend.

Most of Morgan's divisions reported lower trading profits last year. One exception was lubrication where profits rose from £2.1m to £2.3m.

Net finance charges were also up, last year, increasing from £4.02m to £5.11m.

Because of the poor demand worldwide in the final quarter, Morgan carried out plans to cut domestic overheads at a cost of £750,000 and the number of employees have been reduced.

Trading profits last year were reduced by a total of £1.27m reflecting redundancy and reorganization costs. This compared with a charge of £961,000 against the previous year's profits.

The group's cost-cutting measures will also mean less disclosure to shareholders.

Russians cut cheap cruises

From John Earle, Rome

Soviet cruise ships offering cut-price holidays from Italian ports are to be limited as a result of talks in Moscow between Italian shipowners, represented by Signor Nicola Costa, and the Soviet organization Morpaslot.

Signor Costa, chairman of Costa Armatori, which runs Italy's biggest private fleet of cruise ships, said the Russians had agreed to a maximum of 250 cruising days this year accumulated by Soviet-crewed ships chartered to Italian operators.

In 1984, the limit would be further reduced to 200 days. This compared with more than 340 days accumulated last year by Soviet ships carrying on average 600 passengers.

The Russians, Signor Costa added, had also agreed to hold a meeting by the end of March each year, between their organization and the Italian shipowners' organization, Confaripa, to approve a charter programme of Soviet ships for the subsequent year.

They also gave a general undertaking to limit to the 1982 level, the resale of berths on the Italian market which were available on Soviet ships chartered to other foreign operators, particularly West Germany.

Bugner hits on a royal road to the world crown

By Alan Hubbard

Joe Bugner's prospects of competing for any sort of title in the Indian summer of his career seem to be receding. He learnt yesterday that the European champion, Lucien Rodriguez, of France, has overlooked the cheque-book proffered by the London promoter, Frank Turner, and instead will defend his title against his fellow countryman, Sylvain Wabbed, on May 26.

Before Bugner can make serious noises about a world title engagement with Larry Holmes he needs to reestablish himself in the top 10 of the World Boxing Council rankings. Acquisition of the European championship would make this possible, for Rodriguez himself has just earned £100,000 as an opponent for Holmes in a tedious, one-way engagement in the champion's home town of Scranton, New Jersey.

In order to take that contest Rodriguez expelled himself from a proposed meeting with the 33-year-old Bugner. Now he has done so again, rejecting an offer of £40,000 from Mr Turner.

So, just as he did in frustration with Frank Bruno, Bugner has decided to forget all about Mr Rodriguez. Instead he will try to short-circuit the rankings by beating an American, Danny Sutton, at the Alexandra Pavilion on Wednesday.

an American, Danny Sutton, at the Alexandra Pavilion on Wednesday and then the former world title contender, Randy (Tex) Cobb, on June 8 at the same venue. Cobb is accorded seventh place in one of the several boxing ranking lists, and Bugner claims "He will be tougher opposition than Rodriguez, but I think he will be easier to read because he stands in front of you while Rodriguez is always running. I see next Wednesday's bout as a quarter-final and the one with Cobb as a semi-final for an eventual match with Holmes."

Bugner and his promoter believe that the importation of Cobb will satisfy those who have been sceptical about the standard of opposition during his "comeback." Yesterday Bugner sparred three rounds with the 25-year-old Swedish heavyweight, Anders Eklund, who has won all his five professional contests and is being touted as a "white hope." Eklund, who weighs nearly 17 stones and is 6ft 5in in tall, is based in Copenhagen because professional boxing is banned in Sweden. He will be appearing in a supporting bout at the Alexandra Pavilion on Wednesday and should be worth comparing with Britain's young prospect, Bruno.



Snubbed again: Joe Bugner

Benefits accruing from TV coverage

By Robert Pryce

The British Championship schedule is fixed, at last, virtually to everybody's satisfaction. Cleveland Bombers play Durham Wasps home and away this weekend and at Streatham the following Friday. The next day at Streatham, the winners will play Dundee Rockets in the championship final. The two games at Streatham will be televised for ITV.

A complex formula has been devised to ensure that the Cleveland-Durham series is competitive for all three games. It will be possible for a team to lose two of the three games and still qualify for the final, an elegant contortion designed to accommodate the television network.

The British game has not always appeared so cooperative towards television's requirements. "A lot of the clubs do not yet realise the impact they can make through television," John Davis, Thames Television's head of sport, observed. "I hope that will get sorted out for next season."

The benefits in sponsorship and public interest that can accompany television coverage did not improve the British Ice Hockey Association council, who banished at plans to televise two Thursday evening games at Altrincham last month.

Everything appeared to have been arranged, including rink-side advertising, when Mr Bailey informed Granada, the television company, that he would not cancel public skating sessions or instructional periods so that lighting could be installed.

Granada withdrew, vowing never to return. Graham Nurse, the local club's leading administrator, resigned. He is now helping to set up a club in a new rink planned for Rochdale.

Nevertheless, ITV plan to take up their option on a second season of coverage. The ice hockey that the network has managed to show has been favourably received. "The ratings overall have been incredible," Mr Davis said. "And I have never known a sport on television which has had such a response."

Now the sport is about to benefit financially from its television impact. On Monday the BHA will announce details of a contract it has just signed with a big sponsor for next season's British League. The deal should bolster the stock of the BHA, never very high among its member clubs, and shore up the structure of the British League.

Datalogic to buy main parts of Altergo

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Datalogic, a British computer systems company owned by the American Raytheon group, will buy the main part of Altergo, the software house that went into receivership last week.

The receivers, Mr Ipe Jacob and Mr Maurice Withall of London accountants Thornton Baker, had offers from many buyers in Britain and the United States. They had to negotiate very quickly before Altergo's 275 employees - the vital asset of the business - dispersed to other jobs.

Datalogic is buying the two largest subsidiaries, Altergo Limited and Altergo Business Systems, and has offered employment for nearly all of their 150 staff who were made

redundant earlier this week. They will trade as a separate unit under the Altergo name within the Datalogic organization. The price paid was not disclosed.

The receivers said they were negotiating "with several interested parties in the United Kingdom and the United States" about the future of the remaining parts of Altergo, notably Altergo Software which has significant involvement in the American market.

"Because that business is more complex it is likely to be some days before an announcement can be made" about Altergo Software, Mr Jacob and Mr Withall said yesterday.

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. Interest Rates

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. announces that its base rate for lending will change from 10½% to 10% with effect from 15th April 1983

The interest rates paid on call deposits will be call deposits of £1,000 and over 6¼% (call deposits of £300 - £999 5¼%)

Rates of interest on fixed deposits of over £5,000 will be quoted on request. Enquiries: Please telephone 01-9304611



Head Office: 23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 2EP

Williams & Glyn's

Interest Rate Changes

Williams & Glyn's Bank announces that with effect from 15th April 1983 its Base Rate for advances is reduced from 10½% to 10% per annum.

Interest on deposits at 7 days' notice is reduced from 7½% to 6¾% per annum.



Williams & Glyn's Bank plc



NatWest announces that with effect from Friday, 15th April, 1983, its Base Rate is reduced from 10½% to 10% per annum.

The basic Deposit and Savings Account rates are reduced from 7½% to 6¾% per annum.

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP



Courts & Co. announce that their Base Rate is reduced from 10½% to 10% per annum with effect from the 15th April 1983 until further notice.

The Deposit Rate on monies subject to seven days notice of withdrawal is reduced from 7½% to 6¾% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Base Rate

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc announces that with effect from close of business on 15 April 1983 its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 10½% per cent per annum to 10 per cent per annum.

Why trampolining fails to take off

There is something ever so subtly silly about the idea of trampolining. Not with the actuality, oh no, certainly not. When you see these finely honed athletes taking off like roman candles spinning like catheine wheels among the rafters, you catch your breath in admiration and astonishment.

Trampolining as a sport involves almost impossibly high levels of skill, power and sheer terror, yet it cannot shake off its background taste of frivolity, its associations with pinging bed-springs and dorm romps.

At its highest level, this sport is one of dazzling pyrotechnics controlled with an iron will, and when the world champion, Carl Furrer, and his young pretender, Glenn Kelly, of Australia, locked horns at the Southern Area Championships there was a surfeit of delights to gratify both the purist and the seeker of sensation.

It was a classic duel, with Furrer returning from an eight month break from competition, pitting his lethally sharp technique against the amiable Australian who sought to compensate for technical shortcomings by outdoing the champion in the heroics department.

Kelly had left Australia to compete in Britain because Britain is the world's leading trampolining nation. That is because Britain takes it seriously as a sport in its own right, even though nobody pings up and down in the Olympic Games. The trampoline is an American invention, but trampolining got a bad name there. Bouncing became a craze, you weren't any one if you didn't have a trampoline by the poolside and a pair of crutches to help you walk after you'd broken your leg on the damn thing.

A lot of people got themselves hurt by being stupid and not realising that if you are 30 feet above your target you don't have a lot of margin for error. In Britain, a trampoline became the first resort of school sports departments with a spot left over in the budget, and here it was taken seriously, and the dangers circumvented. At HMS Temeraire, the Navy's physical education base where the Southern Area Open was taking place, the tramps were surrounded by soft landing stuff, and though there were a few major misadventures, no-one was actually hurt.

From the schools, the effort grew. The British Trampolining Federation's press man, Tony Hull said: "It's our system of bringing on youngsters by

OUTPOSTS

organizing competitions in age groups that makes us the best. Take Andrea Holmes. Her first major competition outside England was the world championships in Montana last year, and at one stage she was sixth. And though she blew it in her final round, and finished 10th, when it comes to the next world championships, in Osaka in 1984, she is going to be something to be reckoned with." Andrea Holmes is 13.

Britain is good at the sport, and there is great flooding of interest at the schools, with plenty of gym teachers able to coach trampolining at the basic levels, and a good network of clubs across the country to bring people on. There is even one professional coach, Brian Phelps, who got the taste for bouncing when in training for Olympic diving competitions.

But for all his efforts and the efforts of trampolining enthusiasts across the world, the sport, for all its dizzy-making skills, remains a strict minority activity; the poor relation of gymnastics. A day at HMS Temeraire makes it clear that something has gone completely and stupidly wrong here.

Though gymnastics and trampolining are blood brothers, there was a familial disagreement a long way back, and the road split many a mile ago. Both sports are the poorer for the parting, but the chances of their coming together again seem achingly remote. The division is no longer a matter of rancour or disagreement: it is simply a *fait accompli*.

"Trampolining is a fantastic sport," said Nick Stuart, director of technical development with the British Amateur Gymnastics Association. "We use trampolines a lot in training, and so do the Russians. It's a sport that requires courage, skill and accuracy. In some ways an amalgamation would make sense, but trampolining has become a specialized sport now."

Spectacular

Trampolining has influenced mainstream gymnastics, notably with the spectacular spinning dismounts from the high bar and the rings, but as things stand, that is as close as the two are likely to get. Gymnastics seems all set in its own error, for a brief period the trampoline was introduced as the seventh item in the



Aerial artistry: Glenn Kelly, world number two, bouncing on high. Photograph by Peter Trievnor

men's programme but it was removed again. Seven was too many. The extraordinarily tedious and apparently nonsensical skills of shuffling about on a pommel horse, and the sickening spectacle of little girls turning on immaculately coaxed pixie smiles as they skip about on the floor to music, hold the attention of those involved in the mainstream sport of gymnastics.

There are tremendous things to watch in gymnastics as well as silly ones, sure enough, but trampolining, pared of synthetic charm and bursting with quite spectacular daring and zeal, seems somehow to have blown it for the moment. Which is why the Southern Open was at HMS Temeraire, a well organized competitors competition, rather than a crowd grabbing spectacle at the Wembley Arena.

Yet there was plenty to grab crowds. Kelly, the death-defying Australian, was matching his spectacular range of shimmer-

ing green and gold competition vests with a yet more dazzling display of acrobatics, opening his voluntary routine with a triple backward somersault and following this with the second of his 10 permitted bounces, a triple going the opposite way. "Very Australian," said Scales.

Twisting

Up in the stratosphere, between the rafters, he was earning marks for every bodily twitch, 1 mark for each quarter somersault and each half twist. Yet it was not enough. Furrer answered with precision, pinging off that red cross in the middle of the bed every time, surrounded by the rapt insiders of this sport. But even for an outsider it was a grand contest, as Furrer's razor skills won the event to conclude a tremendous day of sport. You left HMS Temeraire with a spring in your step.

Simon Barnes

Speedy Habibti to confirm early promise

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

The 1,000 Guineas will be uppermost in the mind again at Newbury today when nine three-year-old fillies compete for the Fred Darling Stakes. This year the classic trial has been sponsored by the Sheikh Maktoum Al Maktoum, who has become one of the most prolific owners of racehorses in this country.

Hopes of keeping the prize in the family rest with the owner, who has won his first three races last year. I prefer Habibti, another filly with Middle Eastern connections whose owner, Mohammed bin Mubarak, now has the Sussex Stud.

Being by that influential stallion, Habibti, out of a full sister to that high-class sprinter d'Unverville, that stud even if she never wins another race because she put her stamp on last season by winning the three races she contested, at Ascot, York and the Curragh. However, I will be disappointed if she does not turn out to be every bit as good and probably even better this season.

Habibti certainly has the size and the scope to train on and do well as a three-year-old. At present she is third only behind Ma Biche and yesterday's impressive winner Favridge in the 1,000 Guineas betting. Habibti is trained by John Dunlop who also trained Quick As Lightning to win the 1,000 Guineas seasons ago. That filly also had her preparatory race here at Newbury but she could finish only third in it, albeit after a very unlucky run. This time Dunlop is hoping for a better performance, although he is the first to concede that Habibti will be better for the race.

Much will depend on how her principal rivals have also wintered. Goodbye Shelley and Flamenco because Habibti does not that much about them in the Free Handicap to suggest she has a lot in hand now. Goodbye Shelley's big moment came in Paris in the autumn when she won the Prix de la Forêt. That race was over a mile

on soft ground so she will have no difficulty in lasting the battle today on ground that will be every bit as testing. However, I believe that the trial that took Habibti past Royal Heroine in the closing stages of the Lowther Stakes at York last August will be the deciding factor, even on this ground.

Twelve months ago Barry Hills and Steve Cauthen came up trumps in this race when slightly dangerous woe, carrying the pale blue colours of Alan Clure. Now the same combination will be represented by Nibebu who ran so well to finish second to Ascot in the autumn. In her only race as a two-year-old, but like the other maidens in the field, Current Raiser and Page Blanche, she will be meeting all the previous winners on dead-vantageous ground.

Page Blanche, the newcomer, is a half-sister to Premier Ministre, a good horse in the United States.

Page Coach, Henry Cecil's runner in the Spring Maiden Stakes, is a superbly bred colt by Luthier out of Glass Slipper, who has already bred two classic winners, the Royal Heroine and Light Cavalry. But Steve Cauthen did not show much in his only race as a two-year-old at Doncaster and I prefer Firmament, whose encouraging race behind a Russian Roubles in the Houghton Stakes at Newmarket last October augured rather better.

Debut, my selection for the Chieveley Stakes, was runner-up to Shalimar in the Sussex Stakes last Saturday. Now he will be meeting the same horse, who had the advantage of a previous outing at Leicester, on 7th better terms. He should be a tough nut to crack in the Thatcham Stakes over one mile.

Heavy rain has forced Wolverhampton to reduce its safety limits for racing there next Monday and Tuesday a spokesman said: "Due to the state of the new ground on the racecourse, the safety limits have been reduced." The new limits are 10 runners in races of seven, eight and nine furlongs, 14 in races over the one mile 3 furlongs course, and 16 in races of a mile and a half. The 5 furlong limit is unaltered.

Newbury

Draw: no advantage
Tote double 3.0, 4.0. Treble 2.30, 3.30 and 4.30
(Television (BBC1) 2.30, 3.0 and 3.30 races)

2.0 BECKHAMPTON STAKES (2-y-o maidens: £1,774: 50) (8 runners)

102 102A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
103 103A COUNT OF ARCY (B) (C) Argy 4-0 W. Hughes 17
104 104A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
105 105A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
106 106A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
107 107A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
108 108A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
109 109A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
110 110A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
111 111A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
112 112A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
113 113A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
114 114A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
115 115A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
116 116A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
117 117A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
118 118A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
119 119A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17
120 120A HOTT TOUCH (B) (C) Hot Touch 4-0 W. Hughes 17

2.30 SPRING STAKES (3-y-o maidens: £1,132: 1m 30) (18)

201 201A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
202 202A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
203 203A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
204 204A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
205 205A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
206 206A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
207 207A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
208 208A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
209 209A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
210 210A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
211 211A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
212 212A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
213 213A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
214 214A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
215 215A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
216 216A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
217 217A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
218 218A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
219 219A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
220 220A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

3.0 GAINSBOROUGH STUDD FRED DARLING STAKES (Group III 3-y-o fillies: £13,292: 7f 60yds) (8)

302 302A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
303 303A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
304 304A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
305 305A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
306 306A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
307 307A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
308 308A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
309 309A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
310 310A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
311 311A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
312 312A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
313 313A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
314 314A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
315 315A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
316 316A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
317 317A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
318 318A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
319 319A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
320 320A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

3.30 CHEVELEY HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,807: 5f) (8)

401 401A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
402 402A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
403 403A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
404 404A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
405 405A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
406 406A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
407 407A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
408 408A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
409 409A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
410 410A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
411 411A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
412 412A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
413 413A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
414 414A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
415 415A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
416 416A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
417 417A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
418 418A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
419 419A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
420 420A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

4.0 THATCHAM HANDICAP (2,551: 2m) (10)

501 501A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
502 502A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
503 503A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
504 504A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
505 505A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
506 506A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
507 507A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
508 508A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
509 509A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
510 510A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
511 511A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
512 512A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
513 513A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
514 514A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
515 515A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
516 516A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
517 517A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
518 518A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
519 519A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
520 520A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

4.30 STROUD GREEN HANDICAP (3-y-o: £3,032: 1m) (10)

601 601A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
602 602A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
603 603A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
604 604A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
605 605A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
606 606A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
607 607A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
608 608A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
609 609A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
610 610A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
611 611A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
612 612A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
613 613A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
614 614A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
615 615A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
616 616A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
617 617A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
618 618A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
619 619A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
620 620A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

Newbury selections
By Michael Phillips
2.0 Count of Argy, 2.30 Firmament, 3.0 Habibti, 3.30 Debut, 4.0 Pope's Joy, 4.30 Jaimond the Stone.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.30 Hot Touch, 3.0 Page Blanche, 3.30 Chaplin's Club, 4.30 Mandelstam.

Newmarket results
going good.
2.0 (2.2) GRABBY STAKES (2-y-o: £2,443: 5f)
APRIL 14, 1983. Winner: Argy (11.4) by Alan Skyr-Skyr (A) (P) (M) 9-1.
2.30 (2.3) SPRING STAKES (3-y-o: £1,132: 1m 30)
Winner: Hot Touch (11.4) by Alan Skyr-Skyr (A) (P) (M) 9-1.
3.0 (3.0) GAINSBOROUGH STUDD FRED DARLING STAKES (Group III 3-y-o fillies: £13,292: 7f 60yds)
Winner: Habibti (11.4) by Alan Skyr-Skyr (A) (P) (M) 9-1.
3.30 (3.3) CHEVELEY HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,807: 5f)
Winner: Debut (11.4) by Alan Skyr-Skyr (A) (P) (M) 9-1.
4.0 (4.0) THATCHAM HANDICAP (2,551: 2m)
Winner: Debut (11.4) by Alan Skyr-Skyr (A) (P) (M) 9-1.
4.30 (4.3) STROUD GREEN HANDICAP (3-y-o: £3,032: 1m)
Winner: Debut (11.4) by Alan Skyr-Skyr (A) (P) (M) 9-1.

Favourite odds
2.0 Count of Argy, 2.30 Firmament, 3.0 Habibti, 3.30 Debut, 4.0 Pope's Joy, 4.30 Jaimond the Stone.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.30 Hot Touch, 3.0 Page Blanche, 3.30 Chaplin's Club, 4.30 Mandelstam.



Impressive Favoridge winning the Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket yesterday.

Fleet-footed Favoridge

By Michael Seely

The build-up to the classic continued at Newmarket yesterday. Favoridge is now top quoted at 7-1 for the 1,000 Guineas after showing an explosive turn of speed to beat Annie Edge and Royal Heroine in the Nell Gwyn Stakes to the 2,000 Guineas from Ladbrokes's have led Gorytus to lose £50,000 at all rates from 6-1 to 4-1. And after Dick Fiera had won the Rowley Mile stakes with Schuss the trainer said: "Gorytus looks a picture. He has been working well and has pleased me in every way."

Favoridge's victory was a joy to watch. Pat Eddery kept Amaranda's half-sister about three lengths off the pace as Annie Edge made the running. At the business the issue clearly was between Annie Edge, Royal Heroine and Favoridge. Racing into the dip Eddery sent the favourite to the front. Lengthening his stride impressively, Favoridge won easily by 10 lengths with the Royal Heroine only a head away third.

Geoffrey Wragg was delighted with the winner's performance. "I have no doubts at all about her getting the extra furlong in the Guineas. She appeared not to say when beaten by Ma Biche in the last autumn's Chieveley Park Stakes because Eddery had kept her about eight lengths behind the leaders in the early stages. Consequently she had to burn up her speed to reach a challenging position and had nothing to reserve when Ma Biche found a bit extra."

The good form shown by Guy Harwood's three-year-olds continued with the victory of Fleet-footed Favoridge. The colt's victory was a joy to watch. Pat Eddery kept Amaranda's half-sister about three lengths off the pace as Annie Edge made the running. At the business the issue clearly was between Annie Edge, Royal Heroine and Favoridge. Racing into the dip Eddery sent the favourite to the front. Lengthening his stride impressively, Favoridge won easily by 10 lengths with the Royal Heroine only a head away third.

Geoffrey Wragg was delighted with the winner's performance. "I have no doubts at all about her getting the extra furlong in the Guineas. She appeared not to say when beaten by Ma Biche in the last autumn's Chieveley Park Stakes because Eddery had kept her about eight lengths behind the leaders in the early stages. Consequently she had to burn up her speed to reach a challenging position and had nothing to reserve when Ma Biche found a bit extra."

Thirsk

Draw: no advantage
Tote double 3.0, 4.0. Treble 2.30, 3.30 and 4.30
(Television (BBC1) 2.30, 3.0 and 3.30 races)

2.0 BIRDFORTH HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,811: 1m) (10)

1001 1001A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1002 1002A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1003 1003A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1004 1004A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1005 1005A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1006 1006A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1007 1007A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1008 1008A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1009 1009A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1010 1010A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1011 1011A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1012 1012A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1013 1013A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1014 1014A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1015 1015A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1016 1016A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1017 1017A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1018 1018A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1019 1019A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1020 1020A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

3.0 SOWERBY STAKES (3-y-o: £1,756: 1m 40) (8)

1101 1101A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1102 1102A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1103 1103A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1104 1104A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1105 1105A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1106 1106A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1107 1107A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1108 1108A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1109 1109A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1110 1110A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1111 1111A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1112 1112A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1113 1113A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1114 1114A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1115 1115A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1116 1116A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1117 1117A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1118 1118A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1119 1119A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1120 1120A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

4.0 HAYFIELD HURDLE (Novices: £1,110: 2m 60) (18 runners)

1201 1201A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1202 1202A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1203 1203A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1204 1204A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1205 1205A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1206 1206A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1207 1207A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1208 1208A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1209 1209A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1210 1210A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1211 1211A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1212 1212A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1213 1213A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1214 1214A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1215 1215A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1216 1216A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1217 1217A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1218 1218A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1219 1219A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1220 1220A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

4.15 KYLES OF BUTTE HURDLE (Handicap: £1,375: 2m) (10)

1301 1301A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1302 1302A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1303 1303A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1304 1304A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1305 1305A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1306 1306A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1307 1307A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1308 1308A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1309 1309A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1310 1310A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1311 1311A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1312 1312A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1313 1313A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1314 1314A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1315 1315A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1316 1316A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1317 1317A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1318 1318A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1319 1319A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1320 1320A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

4.45 ADAMHILL HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £283: 3m 10yds) (7)

1401 1401A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1402 1402A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1403 1403A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1404 1404A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1405 1405A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1406 1406A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1407 1407A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1408 1408A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1409 1409A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1410 1410A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1411 1411A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1412 1412A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1413 1413A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1414 1414A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1415 1415A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1416 1416A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1417 1417A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1418 1418A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1419 1419A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1420 1420A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17

4.55 SCOTTISH CHAMPION HURDLE (Handicap: £4,548: 2m) (6)

1501 1501A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1502 1502A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1503 1503A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1504 1504A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1505 1505A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1506 1506A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1507 1507A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1508 1508A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1509 1509A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1510 1510A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1511 1511A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1512 1512A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1513 1513A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1514 1514A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1515 1515A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1516 1516A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1517 1517A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1518 1518A BODDAD LAD (B) (C) Boudad 4-0 W. Hughes 17
1519 1519A BODDAD LAD (B) (C

International Appointments

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
based in Strasbourg (France)
is organising a competition for the recruitment of
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

(Male or Female)
of Portuguese/Spanish nationality

The competition is open to holders of a university degree (licenciatura), preferably with some work experience.

Ability to speak and write correctly in one of the two official languages (English and French) essential; some knowledge of the other language desirable.

Age: less than 32 years.

At the end of the selection procedure, a reserve list will be drawn up with a view to filling possible future vacancies.

Starting salary (according to age and experience). Including expatriation allowance from 11,427 FF (convertible) gross monthly, tax exempt, plus family allowances as appropriate. Deductions about 12% for cor-

Applications in writing to the following address, for further information and application form (to be returned by 20 May).

**HEAD OF ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
67006 STRASBOURG CEDEX FRANCE**

General Appointments

PERRYS
HAROLD PERRY MOTORS PLC

DIRECTOR

The person to be appointed will have total responsibility for the management of a group of three substantial Ford dealerships, 240 employees, assets of £4 million, and the production of acceptable profits from annual sales in excess of £21 million.

The Perry Group's way of working confers the maximum of authority and local autonomy on directors entrusted with such responsibility. The business knowledge, experience, and personal qualities which the job demands are therefore not merely those normally related to "general manager" posts in the motor trade; they are instead what the Board of one of the country's leading motor groups will look for in the director who will be personally accountable for so important a part of its trading operations.

should first study the Group's latest Report and Accounts, of which a copy will be supplied on request. Then, if you believe you could meet our demands and that the Perry Group would satisfy yours, write to:

**Mr J. F. Macgregor,
Chairman and Managing Director,
Harold Perry Motors PLC,
2a Alexandra Grove,
London N12 8NU**

ADMINISTRATOR, graduate, aged 35-50, with minimum 5 years experience degree for high technology work, with 2-5 yrs exp. in foreign travel involving security, training and programming, good producer. Please phone Hagan, Inc., Business People Recruitment Consultants, 409 6033.

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Journal of Management Education 30(6)

The image is a high-contrast, black and white scan of a document page, likely a form or report. The page is heavily degraded with noise and artifacts. The top portion shows a header area with a curved line and some illegible text. The main body contains several sections of text, including a large block of text on the left and a smaller block on the right. The bottom section features a table with multiple columns and rows of data, though the text is mostly illegible due to the poor quality of the scan.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 **Crestal AM.** News headlines, weather, sport and traffic details. This service is also available with the television set without the Teletext facility.

6.30 **Breakfast Time.** Today's presenters are Selina Scott and Frank Bough. News headlines at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. Headlines on the quarter hours, and regional news and traffic at 8.45, 9.15, 9.45 and 10.15. Today's guests, Peter Ustinov and Harold Macmillan, will be talking about the Soviet Union.

12.30 **News After Noon.** and weather prospects: 12.57 Financial Report. And news headlines, with sub-titles.

1.00 **Pebble Mill at One:** the conversation and music magazine from the studio floor.

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TV-am

6.00 **Daybreak:** followed at 8.30 by **Good Morning Britain.** presented by Anna Ford and Nick Owen. Items include news at 6.00, 6.20, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, and 9.11; City news at 8.15; Review of the papers at 8.20; Sport at 8.40 and 9.10; TV spot at 9.15; Interview with John Curry at 8.20; Money Talks at 8.40 and 9.10; Money Talks with Michael Barry, at 9.05. Closedown at 9.15.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 **Sesame Street:** learning things, with The Muppets; 10.30 **News International:** facts for Everyone; 10.35 **The Postman Files:** The hunt for the humpback whale; 11.30 **Film Fun:** Compilation of award-winning Warner Brothers cartoons, presented by Derek Griffiths (I).

12.00 **Topper:** tales with Julian Orchard (I); 12.10 **Rainbow:** with Gerry Margden as guest; 12.30 **Wild, Wild, World of Animals:** The clever tricks of the racoon's cousin, the Coati Mundi.

1.00 **News from ITN:** 1.20 **Times news:** 1.30 **About Britain:** The story of a Scots marching band formed in Glasgow and now competing nationally.

2.00 **A Plus:** The topic is middle age. A studio audience discuss it with writers Molly Parkin and Christopher Matthews.

2.30 **Film: Too Many Crooks (1957)** Engaging British comedy about a gang of bungling kidnappers. With Terry-Thomas, George Cole, Sidney James and Vera Day. Director: Mario Zampi.

4.00 **Children's TV:** Rainbow (I); 4.20 **Dangerousness:** the cartoon series that is now selling well in video form; 4.25 **Animals in Action:** All sorts and conditions of frogs.

4.50 **Freemline:** Youngsters perform songs they have written.

5.15 **Make Me Laugh:** A chuckle-provoking contest.

5.45 **News:** 6.00 **The 6 o'clock Show:** The lighter side of the news, with Michael Aspel and Janet Street-Porter.

7.00 **Family Fortunes:** Quiz and cash game with Bob Morrison. The Browns from Ardrie take on the Ladds from Romford, Essex.

7.30 **Hawaii Five-O:** Steve Garret suspects that a doctor is illegally supplying drugs to addicts.

8.30 **Pig in the Middle:** Susan Bradshaw her new-found freedom and Barry begins to feel trapped. With Joanna van Gysegem and Terence Brady.

9.00 **Death of an Expert Witness:** Episode 2 of Robin Swicord's dramatization of the James murder story reveals the private, poetic side of Adam Dalglish of the Yard (Ray Massey). And Maxim Howarth (Barry Foster) starts work as the new director of the Scotland Yard.

10.00 **News at Ten.**

10.30 **The London Programme:** Iain Stewart has earned for itself the name of "The Bananas Republic" because of the odd subjects that end up on the agenda for debate by its left-wing members. We learn tonight why the council has revealed the GLC for the column inches it has won in the newspapers.

11.00 **Shoe! Pool!** The second match in the John Bull Bitter London and Champsford pool series. Charlie Nolan competing against Raymond Farbrother. Close: Brian Blessed reads something by Francis Bacon.

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Timothy Spall in *Guests of the Nation* (BBC 2, 9.30 pm).

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6.50 **Madhur Jeffrey's Indian Cookery:** Rogan Josh.

7.15 **News summary:** With sub-titles.

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10.25 **Newsnight:** comment and news bulletins.

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Solidarity calls for May Day mass protests

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's underground Solidarity leader yesterday called for mass protests against Government policies on May Day, an appeal that follows weekend talks with Mr Lech Walesa, chairman of the banned union.

The underground leaders said that regional outposts of Solidarity should try to secure the largest possible attendance at May Day rallies which would march under the slogans: "Freedom for political prisoners", "Restore citizens' rights", and "End price rises".

Mr Walesa, asked whether he associated himself with the protest appeal, said that he had not signed it but did not necessarily distance himself from the message.

This casts a new cloud of uncertainty over the former Solidarity leader who met for three days with the underground leaders and thus treads a narrow line between breaking the law and remaining within it. The arrest of Mr Walesa would have far reaching implications both for the Polish visit to Poland in June and for the Polish Government's standing in the West.

Earlier, Mrs Danuta Walesa was questioned for two and a half hours by the police about her husband's meeting with the underground.

Before entering the Gdansk militia headquarters, Mr Walesa advised his wife to say only that he had been away for the weekend and to refuse to answer any questions about the meeting.

Mr Walesa, who was interrogated for almost five hours on Wednesday, said that he was asked how he had avoided

police surveillance, where the meeting had taken place and what he meant in his brief communication when he said that he had coordinated his strategy with the underground leadership.

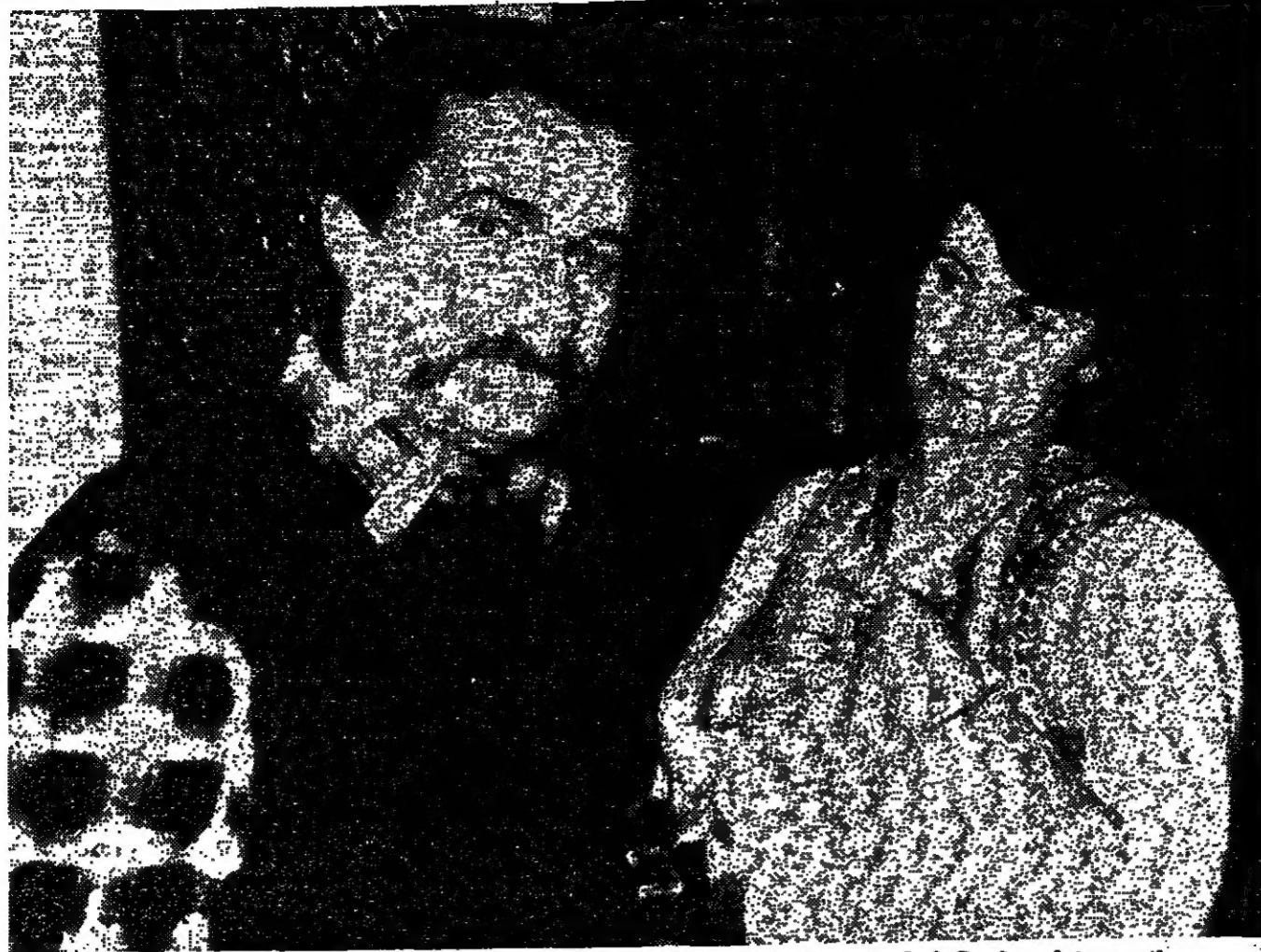
Neither Mr Walesa nor his wife are obliged to say anything that would incriminate them. It is, however, clear that Mr Walesa, who on his release from internment six months ago said that he was walking a "precarious tightrope", could still have charges pressed against him if the police turn up evidence that shows that he discussed "illegal" actions with the underground.

Mr Walesa may well meet Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, when he travels to Gdansk on Sunday. The Primate is due to attend the consecration of a new auxiliary bishop - and it is believed that he may use the occasion to urge caution on Mr Walesa.

Mr Walesa has felt himself forced to assume more radical postures over the past few months as he travels around the country attending trials of union activists and meeting his former colleagues. Somehow he has to meet his followers' expectations and at the same time ensure that he is not instrumental in the cancellation of a papal visit.

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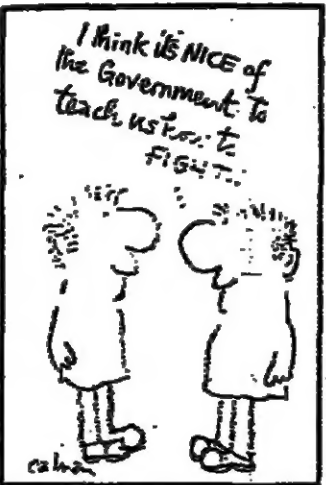
Back home: Mr Walesa with his wife in their Gdansk flat after the Solidarity leader's five-hour interrogation

Jobless youths offered Armed Forces training

Continued from page 1

The Trades Union Congress is likely to oppose the training scheme (the Press Association reports). A spokesman said last night: "A similar proposal for military training under the Manpower Services Commission youth opportunities programme was firmly rejected by the TUC."

Parliament, page 4



Mr Heseltine told the Commons that there would be opportunities for youngsters who completed their one year satisfactorily to continue in the services, but it could not be an automatic right.

He made it clear that the volunteers would be subject to military law. Youngsters will be able to volunteer for the Armed Services of their choice, but the individual service will decide which part they should serve in. Conservative MPs welcomed Mr Heseltine's plans but they were bitterly attacked by the Opposition.

Park Royal printers reject peace formula

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The future of the Park Royal printing plant in West London may not even their union can protect them, he said.

The peace formula worked out by Mr Maxwell and Mr William Keys, general secretary of the union, means that the 3.5 million copies of the *Radio Times* formerly printed at Park Royal will now be produced at a sister plant in East Kilbride, Scotland. Production of the *Listener* is also to be transferred from the works, but it has not been decided where.

But it seemed last night that the union had not accepted that the transfer of the *Radio Times* to East Kilbride was a permanent move.

This factor, together with the dismissals of the machine room men, could mean that the dispute is by no means over. The matter will be discussed at a machine room chapel meeting tomorrow.

Mr Maxwell said that the type-setting was to continue at Park Royal and that union members who have endorsed the deal will be paid normally. The dispute began on March 20 when 400 of the 600 workers at the plant were dismissed

not even their union can protect them, he said.

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Attenborough in storm

Continued from page 1

want black and white people in South Africa to see it.

Mrs Shanthie Naidoo, Gandhi's adopted grand-daughter, also urged Sir Richard not to go. "We believe people should boycott South Africa completely. To show this film in that country is an insult. The liberation movement there has called for it to be boycotted. They do not need a film to show them what apartheid is all about."

Mrs Naidoo, a secretary in London, said she had spent a year in solitary confinement in

South Africa before coming to Britain.

In South Africa, Mr Cassim Saloojee, a prominent Indian involved in the Gandhi Centenary Council, said: "We hope that the showing of the film will inspire people to re-examine Gandhi's concept of non-violent resistance."

The Black British Standing Conference against Apartheid said Sir Richard's decision to allow the film to play before separate audiences accepted "the principle of Apartheid, something Gandhi rejected".

See Attenborough, page 5

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New Exhibitions

Works by Jace Boyd, The Queen's Gate, Trinity College, Cambridge, Tues to Sat 10 to 6 (from today until April 30).
Eighty Years On: Selection from galleries in the North West, City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester, Mon to Sat, 10 to 6 (from today until May 28).
Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art, City Art Gallery, Museum Road, Old Portsmouth, every day 10.30 to 5.30 (from today until May 17).

Last chance to see

Sir Edward Burne-Jones, Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, 10 to 5.30 (ends today).
Wooden Bowls by David Pye, Jim Partridge, Howard Raybould, Cecil Jordan, Richard Hayward and David Bennett, Porcelain by Pat Shillineau, Woven rugs by Wendy Jones, Katharine House Gallery, the

Parade, Marlborough, 10 to 5 (ends today)

After Turner: Repertoire of Turner's works, Gloucester City Museums and Art Gallery, Brunswick Road, 10 to 5 (ends tomorrow).
Painting, collage and construction by Michael Rennie, Festival Gallery, Pierpoint Place, Bath, 11 to 5 (ends tomorrow).
Water colours by Bruce Horsfield, Blake Gallery, Georges Lane, Wrexham, 10 to 4 (ends tomorrow).

Holography Show: three-dimensional images, Chapter Gallery, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff, Mon to Fri 12 to 10, Sat 12 to 4 (ends tomorrow).
Colleges by David Pettit, Carmarthen Museum, Abergwili, 10 to 4.30 (ends tomorrow).
City Visions 1951-80, Bolton Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5 (ends tomorrow).

Work of the Manchester Academy of Fine Art, Gallery of Modern Art, Atholhouse, 61 Princess Street, 10 to 6 (ends tomorrow).

Music

Concert by Leith Hill Festival Choir and Orchestra, Docking Hall, 7.30.
Concert by the Kent County Youth Orchestra, Canterbury Cathedral, 7.30.
Recital by Philip Jones Brass ensemble, The Pavilion, Harbour Street, Broadstairs, 7.45.
Concert by John Heddle Nash, Church Hall, Sproughton, 7.30.
Concert by Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, King George's Hall, Northgate, Blackburn, 7.30.
Concert by Scottish National Orchestra Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30.

The City Waiters' Concert of medieval and Renaissance popular music, Hind College, Shephard, 7.30.

Concert by Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, King's College Chapel, Cambridge, 8.

General

Flowers, pools and gardens exhibition, Plymouth Exhibition Centre, today 12 to 6, tomorrow 10 to 6, Sunday 10 to 6.
Spring Fair in aid of Council and Care for the Elderly, Graham Spicer Hall, New Malden, 10 to 2.30.
Masked Regatta Ball in aid of Oxford, Assembly Rooms, Bath, 8.

Anniversaries

Births: Nankai, Sikh guru, Rai Bhai di Talwandi, India, 1469; Benjamin Jewett, scholar, 1817; Bliss Carman, poet, Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1861; Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, Prime Minister of Australia, 1923-29, Melbourne, 1883; Death: Mikhail Lomonosov (April 4, old style), writer, St Petersburg, 1765; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, London, 1925. The Titanic, on its maiden voyage, struck an iceberg and sank south of Newfoundland, 1912.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on UK dependencies.

Food prices

There are signs in the shops that summer is on the way, with increasing supplies of English salad vegetables, particularly lettuce and cucumber, tomatoes, radishes and watercress are also slightly cheaper. Round lemons are 20-25p each, cucumbers 30-45p, spring onions 15-30p a bunch, and good-quality hot-house tomatoes 75-90p a pound. Best value among winter vegetables are English greens 18-24p a pound, cauliflowers 38-50p each, white and red cabbage 4-16p a pound, parsnips 12-18p, swedes 8-12p, onions 8-14p, carrots 10-14p.

Strawberries from Spain, Portugal and Israel are 40-50p a punnet. Oranges are less plentiful than usual, but Cape Golden Delicious apples and New Zealand Coxes are recommended. Avocados, 20-60p each, are outstanding value.

New season's home produced lamb is now more plentiful. Whole legs in Dewhurst shops are £1.49 to £1.99 a pound and whole shoulder 89p to £1.38. Sainsbury's have whole legs at £2.10 and whole shoulder at £1.48. Dewhurst's New Zealand lamb is also cheaper: shoulder as little as 59p and leg £1.08. Sainsbury's have cut beef prices to £1.28 for back and top rib and £1.00 for flank. Tesco have brisket at 98p a pound, stewing steak at £1.28, fore rib at £1.44 and braising steak at £1.40. Frozen joints in Sainsbury's are £1.89 for top round, topside and sirloin.

Fish is cheapest in Scotland (£1.10 for cod fillets, £1.16 for haddock and 40p for mackerel) and most expensive in Wales (£1.34, £1.36 and 55p respectively).

Best Wines

In a blind tasting of Leibniz-milch wines, two tied for top placing: Blue Nun 1981 (£2.99), El Sichel and Sams, widely stocked and recommended. 1981, Hans J. W. Huesgen (£2.29). Devious Wine shops. Source: Decanter magazine.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia's	27.55	27.75
Belgium's	77.75	77.75
Canada's	1.95	1.97
Denmark's	13.62	13.12
France's	11.59	11.04
Germany's	3.88	3.68
Greece's	136.00	125.00
Hong Kong's	10.70	10.15
Ireland's	1.22	1.17
Italy's	228.00	210.00
Japan's	385.00	365.00
Netherlands's	4.36	4.15
Norway's	11.42	10.82
Portugal's	159.00	145.00
Spain's	1.52	1.75
Sweden's	211.00	200.00
Switzerland's	11.96	11.36
USA's	3.27	3.09
Yugoslavia's	1.58	1.52

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, supplied by Barclays International Ltd. Different rates apply to specific clients and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 327.3

London: The FT index closed up 1.8 at 688.9.

Roads

London and South-east: Abbott Road, linking A102 Blackwall Tunnel approach and A13 East London Road, closed southbound; southbound traffic on A102 must leave at A11 Bow Road or go through tunnel. A3216: One lane only at Chelsea Bridge; use Albert, Battersea or Vauxhall bridges as alternatives. A308: Road works on Sunbury Road/Hampton Road, Hampton; avoid Hampton Court area.

Wales and West: M5: Lane closures between junctions 24 (Munstead) and 25 (Taunton). A55: Single lane, temporary signals 24hr a day at Old Colwyn on Abergyle to Conway road. A40: Resurfacing on Thirsk Lane, Cherttenham; diversions.

Middlesex: A456: Bekidley Road closed at Kidderminster; diversions. A41: Diversions northbound on High Street, Knowle. M1: Lane closures northbound and on slip roads between junctions 27 and 28 near Mansfield.

North: A1: Roadworks at Mill places Newcastle to Berwick. M6: Lane closures northbound and on slip roads between junctions 27 and 28 near Mansfield. A59: Lane closures and temporary signals between Greenock and Uverston.

Scotland: M9: Outside lanes closed between junctions 26 and 29 (Hillington and St James). A8: Alexandra Parade closed at Castle Street, Glasgow; diversions. A89: Diversion SE of Blackburn.

Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

"If Gandhi were alive today and living once more in South Africa, he would be the wrong colour. That is the very fact that they have not been 'liquidated' is a reassuring sign. The revolt of 1943, by persecuted Polish Jews, showed what could happen when a people are provoked beyond endurance. The Warsaw regime dare not risk another uprising, which would finally destroy its claim to legitimacy."

Top films

Top box-office films in London:
(1) Gandhi
(2) Local Hero
(3) Best Friends
(4) The Dark Crystal
(5) Heat and Dust
(6) An Officer and a Gentleman
(7) 48 HRS
(8) Tale for Two
(9) The Missionary
(10) Robin Hood

The top five in the provinces:
(1) Local Hero
(2) Gandhi
(3) The Dark Crystal
(4) The Best Master
(5) ET

Compiled by Screen International

Weather forecast

An anticyclone will move slowly E across S England. A weak trough of low pressure will approach NW Scotland later.

6 am to midnight

London, East Angles, SE Central S and N, E, SW, NW and NE England, Channel Islands, Wales, Dry, sunny periods, some mist or fog patches soon dispersing; wind variable, light; max 11-13C (52-55F).

Central Highlands, Moors, Firth, NE and NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, some drizzle, cloud thickening from W; wind W, moderate; max 12-14C (54-57F).

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Frank Johnson in the Commons

Thatcher treads warily on Gandhi path

One of the many charms of Prime Minister's question time is that we never know who is going to be mentioned.

Names from history frequently are introduced into the exchanges if any MP thinks any particular name might help along his or her argument. Among historical figures mentioned yesterday were Abraham Lincoln, Gandhi and Mr Michael Foot.

Mr Michael Neubert, the Conservative member for Romford, prefaced a question to Mrs Thatcher with the observation: "On the anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln..."

Mr Neubert paused as members started laughing, and that gave us time to guess what advice he thought it appropriate to offer Mrs Thatcher on the anniversary of the assassination of Lincoln.

Stay away from the theatre that evening? Look more statesmanlike during the election by growing a black beard and bushy black whiskers? Mr Neubert's advice turned out to be: "On the anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the Opposition would do better to remember Lincoln's maxim: do not make the rich poorer, make the poor richer."

"I agree with the quotation from Abraham Lincoln," Mrs Thatcher replied. "I also agree that under the last government, tax thresholds have increased by 5 per cent more than inflation, so there has been a real improvement."

Personal plea over film

So much for Lincoln. Next, Gandhi. Just as Lincoln was, for Mr Neubert's purposes, an early Thatcherite, so it emerged that Gandhi seems to have voted Labour. For Labour backbencher, Mr Alfred Dubs, of Battersea South, asked the Prime Minister to consider "the well-deserved international praise that the film *Gandhi* has received".

He added: "Will she, however, make a personal plea to Sir Richard Attenborough not to go to South Africa in order to give that regime his blessing

by presiding over the ceremonies to do with that film before segregated audiences?"

Mr Dubs is a staunch opponent of segregation in South Africa rather more so, one suspects, than Gandhi, who, during his many years in that country, opposed discrimination against Indians, but seems to have said next to nothing about discrimination against blacks.

Indeed, he volunteered to help put down a Zulu rising, what would nowadays in the Labour Party be called a freedom fighters' struggle, and was awarded a medal in the process.

Approving beams from Jenkins

Alas, we are being bludgeoned on all sides. On adopting a pious tone when talking of Sir Richard's triumphantly misleading film. So Mrs Thatcher had to tread warily. She told Mr Dubs that the film maker must be free to decide whether to attend this South African showing.

But she took care to congratulate "Sir Richard Attenborough and all who took part in the making of this film on their splendid achievement."

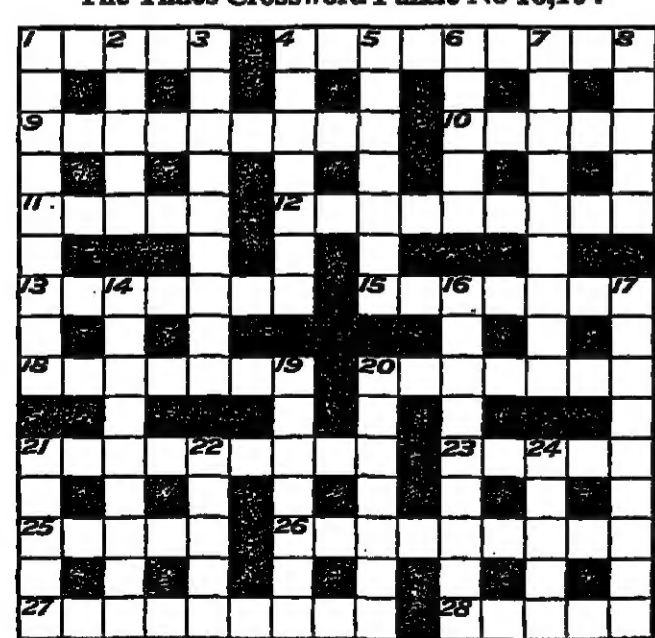
Mercifully, she seemed to do so mainly on Thatcherite, commercial grounds. "It is good for British industry," she said, and she mentioned *Chariots of Fire* as well.

Mr Foot made his appearance during protest about the British ship that is being refitted in Malta instead of Britain. But the running on this issue was made by the SDP, the followers of Mahatma Jenkins, the spiritual leader of Britain's teeming moderates.

He did not take part in the exchanges, but beamed approvingly as one of his lieutenants denounced Mrs Thatcher for letting down Britain.

This restraint was in keeping with the Jenkins doctrine of non-violence, a doctrine which has got him into trouble with the fanatical followers of the young David Steel. Mr Jenkins is not built for a death fast over the issue, preferring to settle such matters with a slow lunch. I would rather have him as my leader than Gandhi.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,104



ACROSS